

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:297

ANSWERED ON:21.02.2006

JOINT STUDY GROUP ON TRADE BETWEEN INDIA AND RUSSIA

Nayak Shri Ananta

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Russia have agreed to set up a joint study group to examine the possibility to increase trade;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether Russia has also joined the World Trade Organisation; and
- (d) if so, the extent to which it is likely to boost the Indian trade?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAI RAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation was signed on 6th February 2006 by Shri Kamal Nath, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Mr. G.O. Gref, Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation during the latter's visit to India. This provides for establishing a Joint Study Group (JSG) under the Co-Chairmanship of Commerce Secretary or his representative from the Indian side and the authorized expert from the Russian side. The JSG has been mandated to formulate a program to suggest steps for enhancing bilateral trade between India and Russia with an overall objective of diversifying and strengthening the bilateral relations in a wide range of areas, particularly with regard to trade in goods and services, investment and economic cooperation and study the feasibility to consider the possibility of signing Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement between India and the Government of the Russian Federation.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.