

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1189
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006
VISA TO CHINESE BUSINESSMEN
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether China has shown concern about not granting visa to its businessmen by India;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the reaction of India thereto; and
- (d) the steps taken to improve relations with China?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a)-(c) Visas for Chinese nationals are issued in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Simplifying Visa Procedures between India and China of June 23, 2003. Issues relating to the implementation of this MOU are discussed between the two sides from time to time. Government has issued modified guidelines on October 11, 2006 on the implementation of the understandings contained in the above-mentioned MOU.

(d) The Joint Declaration issued on November 21, 2006 during the recent visit of President Hu Jintao to India spells out a ten-pronged strategy to upgrade India-China relations to a qualitatively new level, and to further substantiate and reinforce their Strategic and Cooperative Partnership. The elements of this strategy include: ensuring comprehensive development of bilateral relations; consolidating commercial and economic exchanges; expanding all-round mutually beneficial cooperation; instilling mutual trust and confidence through defence cooperation; seeking early settlement of outstanding issues; promoting trans-border connectivity and cooperation; boosting cooperation in Science and Technology; revitalising cultural ties and nurturing people-to-people exchanges; and expanding cooperation on regional and international stage.