

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:759  
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2006  
INVESTMENT IN SAUDI ARABIA  
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the place of India among the top investors in Saudi Arabia;
- (b) whether during Saudi King's visit, India has decided to have more investments in Saudi Arabia;
- (c) whether India has agreed to help and assist Saudi Arabia in IT;
- (d) if so, the total investment India has agreed to invest in Saudi Arabia and also the total investment Saudi Arabia has agreed to invest in India and the extent of relations between two countries that have further improved after his visit ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) As per Saudi data, India ranks 26th among the top foreign Investors in Saudi Arabia in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Stock in the Kingdom until end 2004. Indian investment in Saudi Arabia stands at US \$ 1.42 million up to 31st December, 2005.

(b & d) As per the Delhi Declaration signed during the visit of King of Saudi Arabia, both countries have agreed to develop a strategic energy partnership which would also include cooperative and joint ventures, both in public and private sectors, in the upstream and downstream oil and gas sectors in India and Saudi Arabia as well as in third countries, Saudi investments in Oil refining, marketing and storage in India and setting up of India- Saudi ventures for gas-based fertilizer plants in Saudi Arabia. The two sides have also agreed to encourage and support entrepreneurs in both countries to promote economic cooperation actively. India has offered assistance in setting up of an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Centre of Excellence in Saudi Arabia at a total budget outlay of US \$ 65 million. It is expected that the visit will help further strengthen the existing close and friendly ties between India and Saudi Arabia.