

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4879  
ANSWERED ON:23.05.2006  
DELEGATION FROM DUTCH  
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether a delegation from Dutch visited India in October, 2005;
- (b) if so, the details of the discussions held;
- (c) whether any agreement has been signed between the two countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken to implement the same?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The Netherlands Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs, Mr. Laurens Jan Brinkhorst paid an official visit to India in October 2005. In a meeting with the Commerce and Industry Minister, the two sides discussed inter-alia, on the economic scenario in the two countries; enlarging the basket of trade; enhancing cooperation in areas like Science and Technology, Information Technology; India's strength in Food Processing Industries; visa problems faced by Indian businessmen; WTO negotiation on Agriculture.

(c), (d) & (e) No Agreement was signed by the Department of Commerce during the visit. However, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Department of Biotechnology and Netherlands' Institute of Higher Education for Cooperation in Biotechnology with an aim to find solutions to problems in agricultural and health areas.