

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5401
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010
INDIA-IRAN RELATIONS
Bhoi Shri Sanjay

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the relations between India and Iran are reportedly strained as reported in the media;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to have talks at the Ministerial level with Iran; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the agenda for such talks?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

(a): No. India and Iran share a civilisational and historical relationship that spans many millennia. These elements underpin a rich and multi-faceted contemporary relationship with an emphasis on trade, investment, regional cooperation, cultural and educational exchanges, and an exchange of high level visits.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) & (d): India and Iran have frequent high-level exchanges, including consultation at Ministerial level. Foreign Minister of Iran H.E. Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki paid an official visit to India on November 16-17, 2009. Foreign Secretary visited Iran for the 7th round of Foreign Office Consultations on February 2-3, 2010. The next meeting of Joint Commission between Indian and Iran, which is co-chaired on the Indian side by External Affairs Minister and by the Minister of Finance and Economy on the Iranian side, is likely to be held later this year in New Delhi. Among the issues discussed during bilateral exchanges with Iran are cooperation in the areas of energy, power, surface transport and infrastructure projects, cultural and educational exchanges, trade and the economy, and the regional situation including Afghanistan, as well as the menace of cross border terrorism.