

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4076

ANSWERED ON:18.08.2010

ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH IRAN

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**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Iran and India are holding discussions at regular intervals on issues relating to economic co-operation under the aegis of the Joint Commission mechanism which was established in 1983;
- (b) if so, the details thereof?
- (c) whether the 16th Session of this Joint Commission mechanism was held recently in New Delhi;
- (d) if so, the details of discussions held between the two countries;
- (e) whether India gives due importance to Iran particularly to meet its energy security; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) to (d): Yes. The 16th Session of the India-Iran Joint Commission was held in New Delhi from July 8-9, 2010. The Session was co-chaired on the Iranian side by the Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance, Dr. Seyed Shamseddin Hosseini and on the Indian side by External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna. The meeting of the Joint Commission provided an opportunity to review bilateral economic and cultural cooperation. It was agreed that the next Session of the Joint Commission would be held in Tehran.

The following MoUs/Agreements were signed during the Joint Commission Meeting:

i. Air Services Agreement

ii. Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons

iii. MoU on Cooperation in New & Renewable Energy

iv. MoU on Cooperation in Small Scale Industry between National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) and Iranian Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organisation (ISIPO)

v. Programme of Cooperation on Science & Technology

vi. MoU on Cooperation between Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute of India (CPPRI) and Gorgan University of Agricultural Science and Natural Resources (GUASNR)

(e) & (f): Iran is an important source of India's imports of energy resources. Discussions on cooperation in the energy sector are held in the bilateral Joint Working Group on Oil and Gas and other bilateral consultative mechanisms.