

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4521
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2010
CO OPERATION IN MSME SECTOR
Rani Killi Krupa

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Letter of Intent (LoI) was signed with the United States of America in 2007 for cooperation in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the LoI;
- (c) whether the visit of the US President recently has helped in bolstering cooperation this regard;and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) & (b): A Letter of Intent (LoI) was signed between the Small Business Administration of the United States of America (SBA) and the then Ministry of Small Scale Industry of India (now known as Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) during 2007. It envisaged to promote reciprocal trade and opportunities for strategic linkages between Small Business of the United States and small and medium enterprises of India to further economic development and job creation. The Letter of Intent came into effect from 24th January, 2007 for a period of 12 months.

(c) & (d): Visits by the Head of States of foreign countries along with business delegation including that of Mr. Barack Obama, President of USA are always looked upon as one of the opportunities to showcase the advantages to MSMEs. However, outcome of such visits, both tangible and intangible, take some time to fructify.