

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3673
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2011
RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA
Singh Shri Radhey Mohan

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has taken any new initiatives to strengthen economic and strategic relations with Latin American and Caribbean countries during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the benefits accrued as a result of such initiatives so far;
- (c) the aims and objectives of Indian Prime Minister's visit to Brazil during April, 2010; and
- (d) the manner in which his visit improved bilateral relations between India and Brazil?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) India's relations with Latin American and Caribbean countries are growing. As a result of our enhanced interactions at all levels with the region in the last three years our trade with the region touched US\$ 23 billion in 2010 from US\$ 2 billion in 2000. Our cumulative investments are estimated to be US\$ 13 billion.

(c) & (d) India enjoys a Strategic Partnership with Brazil, a country with which our ties are growing strongly in many areas. Both countries are members to BRICS and IBSA and maintain close contacts in multilateral fora. Brazil is also India's largest trading partner in the region. Prime Minister's visit to Brazil in April 2010 for IBSA, BRIC and bilateral summit level interactions provided a great impetus to our multi-faceted relationship with Brazil.