

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5026
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2012
STEEL MINISTER'S VISIT TO AFGHANISTAN
Annayagari Shri Sai Prathap

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry of Steel recently visited Afghanistan and met Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai during his visit;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the various bilateral aspects discussed with him for mutual development of the steel sector between the two countries;
- (d) whether any MoUs have been entered into with Afghanistan in the steel sector; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA)

- (a)&(b): Yes, Madam. A delegation led by Steel Minister and other senior officials visited Afghanistan from 9th-10th April, 2012. A meeting with the Hon'ble President, Republic of Afghanistan, Shri Hamid Karzai took place on 10th April, 2012.
- (c) During the meeting various aspects of bilateral co-operation and mutual development such as cooperation in the mineral exploration and mining sector and participation of Indian companies in mining projects in Afghanistan were discussed.
- (d)&(e): A Memorandum of Understanding on co-operation in the fields of iron and steel sector which inter-alia includes encouraging promotion of Indian companies for investment in steel sector and capacity building in Afghanistan etc. was signed between Ministry of Steel, Government of India and Ministry of Mines, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.