

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6143
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2012
TRADE WITH AZERBAIJAN
Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Jeyadural Shri S. R.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry visited Azerbaijan recently;
- (b) if so, the details of the issues discussed to improve the trade relations between India and Azerbaijan during the visit;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up an International North-South Transport Corridor to improve connectivity with Azerbaijan;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has expressed its keenness to participate in the exploration and development of oil and gas fields in Azerbaijan;
- (f) if so, the response of the Government of Azerbaijan in this regard; and
- (g) the details of the main hurdles in the trade relations between the two countries and the steps taken/being taken in improving the same?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

- (a) Yes, Madam. Minister of State for Commerce and Industry visited recently Azerbaijan on 16th April 2012 to co-chair the 2nd meeting of the India - Azerbaijan Inter Governmental Commission (IAIGC) on trade, economy, science and technology cooperation.
- (b),(c) & (d) During the said visit for 2nd IAIGC, issues discussed were regarding trade, economic & investment cooperation, transport, energy, fertilizer, financial sector, tourism, culture, pharmaceutical, agriculture, communication and IT, chemical, environmental protection etc. to improve the trade relations between India and Azerbaijan. The project of International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) was also discussed during the meeting and Azerbaijan expressed its willingness to host the next meeting of the Coordination Council of the INSTC in 2012 in Azerbaijan.
- (e) & (f) In the said visit both the countries showed their interest to explore opportunities for the Indian side to participate in evacuating hydrocarbon through oil and gas pipelines in the Caspian sea, from Azerbaijan side.
- (g) Logistics & connectivity and lack of information about each other's country are the main hurdles in the trade relations between the two countries .Steps are being taken to move the INSTC project ahead.