

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3764

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2013

BILATERAL CO OPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH RUSSIA .

Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether bilateral co-operation agreements with Russia in various sectors have been reviewed recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the extent to which such bilateral agreements have enhanced the trade between the two countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR)

(a) & (b) Yes. The President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir V. Putin visited New Delhi for the 13th India-Russia Annual Summit (Dec 24, 2012). During the visit, he held wide ranging discussions with the Indian side led by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. During the meetings, the two leaders undertook an extensive review of the various areas of bilateral cooperation, especially in energy, defence, space, trade and investment, science and technology, education, culture and tourism.

On defence cooperation, the two leaders expressed satisfaction that the various joint design, development and production projects were progressing well.

Regarding energy cooperation, it was conveyed to the Russian side, India's interest in deepening cooperation through further mutual investments and joint projects.

The two leaders welcomed the operationalization of the India-Russia Joint Science and Technology Centres in India and Russia, which can assist the development and commercialization of promising technologies, including in nano-technology, bio-medicine and super-computing.

As regards economic cooperation, it was acknowledged that the bilateral trade had grown in 2012; however, there is still untapped potential in areas such as pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, mining, steel, information technology, civil aviation, telecommunications, infrastructure, food processing, innovation and services, which both sides need to exploit.

In addition, at the Summit, a Joint Statement titled "Partnership for mutual benefit and a better world" was adopted by both sides. Ten documents were also signed during the visit, including an MoU on Science Technology & Innovation; an MoU to promote direct investments; contracts for delivery of 71 Mi-17V-5 helicopters and 42 technological kits for SU-30MKI aircraft licensed production ; an MoU between BSNL/MTNL and NIS, GLONASS for conducting a pilot project; as well as a few private sector contracts.

(c) Apart from the Annual Summit mechanism, the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade & Economic Cooperation as well as the India-Russia Trade & Investment Forum meet annually and inter alia review the various existing arrangements and the implementation of the previously concluded bilateral agreements with the specific objective of enhancing bilateral trade and investment flows. The Inter-Governmental Commission has wide representation from various Ministries on both the sides. In terms of figures, the India-Russia bilateral trade crossed US\$ 11 billion for the first time in 2012, growing at 24.5%, despite a challenging global economic environment.