

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2422  
ANSWERED ON:05.02.2014  
DIGITAL SIGNATURE CERTIFICATE  
Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether India has signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Digital Signatures for effective and efficient paperless bilateral trade and commerce with some foreign countries including South Korea in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the salient features of the said MoU; and
- (d) the extent to which trade with these countries will be benefited after the recognition of Digital Signatures?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a) Yes, Sir. India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for facilitating effective and efficient paperless Bilateral Trade and Commerce. The MoU envisages Cooperation and Information Exchange for development of an Arrangement for Mutual Recognition of Certifying Authorities (CA) and thereby recognition of Digital Signature Certificates issued by these CAs.

(b) The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with the Republic of Korea on 17th January 2014 for cooperation between the two countries and is expected to lead to mutual recognition of digitally signed electronic documents. It was signed between the Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA), Ministry of Communications and IT, Government of India and the Korea Internet & Security Agency, Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning, Republic of Korea.

(c) The MoU was signed with the Republic of Korea to facilitate exchange of information and cooperation for reaching an arrangement for mutual recognition of each other's Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) and Certifying Authorities in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations of the respective countries. The scope of cooperation includes information exchange and sharing, collaboration towards evolving common, legal and other standards, encouraging use of Digital signatures in bilateral trade and commerce and study of application areas for mutual recognition of PKI Human resource exchange in this regard and development of legal recognition of specific service areas on a reciprocal basis are also included.

Under Section 19 of the Information Technology (IT) Act, two sets of regulations for recognition of Foreign Certifying Authorities were issued in April 2013. One set of Regulations relates to recognition of Foreign Certifying Authorities in countries where there is a regulator similar to the CCA in India. These Regulations will form the basis for India to address aspects related to such cooperation with the Republic of Korea.

(d) Digital Signature Certificates (DSCs) issued by licensed CAs in India are currently not legally valid in South Korea and vice-versa. Procuring DSCs legally valid in one country from the other country causes constraints to users. Thus, trade and other documents requiring authentication are generally paper-based causing delays in processing and transmission.

The Arrangement for Mutual Recognition, if and when implemented, is expected to help in mitigating such inconveniences by according legal validity to digitally signed trade documents and thereby facilitate achieving the Bilateral Trade Target of US \$ 40 Billion by 2015.