

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3936
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2014
INDO-ISRAEL TIES
Arunmozhihevan Shri A.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Israel has expressed its keen desire to share new technologies and innovative ideas with Indian farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of other areas decided for further cooperation between the two countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

- (a) Israel has been collaborating with India in various sectors in the field of agriculture including sharing of new technologies and innovative ideas.
- (b) An Agreement for cooperation in agriculture was signed between the two countries in 1993. The Agreement provided for cooperation in Agricultural Science and Technology including Research & Education, Extension, and Training & Joint Research Projects. These provisions were implemented through periodic Action Plans.
- (c) The current Action Plan (2012-15) is being implemented in the States of Haryana, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Bihar, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. It includes training of Indian officers in Israel in various fields. Under the plan, Israeli experts regularly visit the participating states for demonstrations, trainings and establishment of Centres of Excellence. Centres of Excellence are aimed to introduce scientific and integrated approach to agriculture across various sectors like horticulture, sub-tropical fruits, bee-keeping etc.