

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:447

ANSWERED ON:22.07.2015

Indo-Iran Ties

Charitra Shri Ram

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has begun to reset its ties with Iran, notwithstanding the uncertainty surrounding the negotiations between the Persian Gulf nation and the P5+1;
- (b) whether India is now keen to push for connectivity with Iran, which will pave the way for its entry into Afghanistan and the Central Asian region;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has also ignored cautionary voices from the United States not to rush into doing business with Iran till it firms up the nuclear deal with it; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) India and Iran have traditionally enjoyed close, friendly and cooperative bilateral ties rooted in deep historical, cultural and civilisational links. In recent years bilateral ties have been characterized by frequent interactions at the highest levels including the recent meeting between Prime Minister and the President of Iran in Ufa, Russia on 9 July 2015 on the margins of the SCO Summit.

Since September 2000, India has been cooperating with Iran to develop the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) that will also include participation of Russia. In August 2014 a trial run of two containers was conducted on this corridor, followed by a visit of a Commerce Ministry delegation in January 2015 that held further discussions related to its operationalization. During the visit of Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways to Tehran from 5-7 May, 2015, India and Iran also signed an inter-governmental Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will pave the way for bilateral cooperation in the development of the Iranian Port of Chahbahar. These projects do aim to enhance India's connectivity to Afghanistan and countries of the Central Asian region.

India's bilateral relations with Iran stand on their own and are not influenced by India's relations with any third country.
