

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6979

ANSWERED ON:11.05.2005

MULTIPLE ENTRY VISA BETWEEN INDIA AND MALAYSIA

Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Malaysia has announced that Indian businessmen should be given multiple-entry visas as it was aiming to give a fillip to bilateral economic cooperation and increasing the volume of trade;
- (b) if so, whether during the Malaysian Prime Minister's visit in December, 2004, any agreements were reached between the two countries;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the extent to which both the countries have agreed to improve trade ties?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

- (a) No, Sir. The Malaysian authorities have not made any formal announcement so far with regard to the granting of multiple-entry visa to Indian businessmen.
- (b) The problems faced by Indian businessmen in obtaining long-term multiple-entry visas for Malaysia were discussed during the visit of the Prime Minister of Malaysia to India in December, 2004. The Malaysian Prime Minister assured to look into the matter with a view to streamlining the procedure. However, no formal agreement on business visa facilitation was signed between the two countries during the visit.
- (c) The main agreements reached in the trade and economic sphere during the Malaysian Prime Minister's visit to India include specific MOUs between Indian and Malaysian companies covering cooperation in diverse sectors such as satellite building, bio-technology, infrastructure, software development, information technology etc.
- (d) India-Malaysia trade has been steadily increasing in recent years. The two-way trade registered a 33.9% growth reaching a record level of US \$ 4.29 billion in 2004. Several initiatives have been taken of late to further enhance bilateral trade ties and economic cooperation, which was also the primary focus of the Malaysian Prime Minister's visit to India in December, 2004. During the visit, both sides agreed to explore the possibility of concluding a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) to provide a further thrust and momentum to the trade and economic relations between the two countries. A Joint Study Group (JSG) to examine the feasibility of a CECA has since been constituted and its Terms of Reference finalized. The JSG has been mandated to submit its report and draw up a draft Framework Agreement, subject to the feasibility of CECA being established, by the end of 2005.