

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4071  
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2005  
INDO-AUSTRIA BILATERAL TRADE  
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether any discussion on bilateral trade was held during visit of Austrian President to India in February;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether both the countries have agreed to improve the trade between the two; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and along with the action taken in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ( SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

(a) & (b): Austria`s Minister for Economy & Labour, Mr. Martin Bartenstein, who accompanied the Austrian President during his visit to India in February 2005 had a meeting with the Minister of Commerce & Industry on 17th February 2005.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d): The two sides identified information technology and services sectors as the potential areas for promoting trade and economic cooperation between India and Austria. Promotion of trade is a continuous process and the steps taken by the Govt. in this regard include interaction at the Govt. level through the medium of the India-Austria Joint Economic Commission/Joint Working Groups, encouraging and facilitating direct business level contacts, participation in trade promotional activities, etc.