

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3140
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2005
INDO-ISRAEL COLLABORATION
Budholiya Shri Rajnarayan;Varma Shri Ratilal Kalidas

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Israel is contemplating to improve collaboration with India in various fields;
- (b) if so, whether any talks have been held between the two countries in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and
- (d) the areas in which both the countries are likely to extend co-operation?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): India and Israel have ongoing mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields.

Israeli Vice Premier and Minister of Industry, Trade and Labour, Mr. Ehud Olmert visited India in December, 2004 and had discussions with a number of our Ministers. It was agreed to set up a Joint Study Group to explore ways of enhancing bilateral commercial and economic cooperation. Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Kamal Nath visited Israel from 9-11 November 2005 during which the report of the Joint Study Group between India and Israel was jointly released by the two Ministers.

Minister of State for Science and Technology, Shri Kapil Sibal, visited in May 2005 and signed a Memorandum of Understanding to set up a joint fund to enhance cooperation in various areas of science and technology.

Minister of State for Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Kumari Selja, visited Israel during 24-27 September, 2005, to attend the 'International Conference for Women Leaders on Gender and Migration issues under the Millennium Development Goals.'

Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sharad Pawar visited Israel from 13-17 November to participate in commemoration of the 10th death anniversary of former Israeli PM and Nobel laureate Yitzak Rabin. He also discussed with his Israeli counterpart during the visit various ideas to broaden and intensify bilateral cooperation in agriculture and dairy farming.