

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1138  
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006  
INDO SINO TIES  
Mahto Shri Tek Lal

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

- (a) whether the year 2006 is being celebrated as India-China friendship year;
- (b) if so, the total increase in investments, trade and movement of people between these two countries in this friendship year vis-à-vis last year;
- (c) whether several agreements have been signed during the Chinese President's visit to India;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the extent to which they are likely to benefit India; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to strengthen the relations with China?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) Yes.

(b) During the financial year 2005-2006, bilateral trade was US\$ 17.62 billion, representing a 38.65 percent increase over the previous financial year 2004-2005 when the figure was US\$ 12.71 billion. There are also positive trends in the two-way flow of investments and people-to-people exchanges.

(c) Yes.

(d) A Joint Declaration was issued on November 21, 2006 during the visit of President Hu Jintao of China to India. The two sides also signed thirteen bilateral documents covering: establishment of Consulates-General at Guangzhou and Kolkata; cooperation between the two Foreign Offices; provision of land in Shanghai for the Consulate General of India; promotion and protection of investments; cooperation in inspection of iron ore exports; phytosanitary requirements for exporting rice from India to China; cooperation in agricultural research; educational exchanges; conservation of cultural heritage; commodity futures regulatory cooperation; forestry cooperation; prevention of theft, clandestine excavation and illicit import and export of cultural property; and cooperation between the Indian Institute of Public Administration and the Central Party School of the Communist Party of China. These wide-ranging agreements will contribute to the development and diversification of India-China relations.

(e) The Joint Declaration issued on November 21, 2006 during the visit of President Hu Jintao to India spells out a ten-pronged strategy to upgrade India-China relations to a qualitatively new level, and to further substantiate and reinforce their Strategic and Cooperative Partnership. The elements of this strategy include: ensuring comprehensive development of bilateral relations; consolidating commercial and economic exchanges; expanding all-round mutually beneficial cooperation; instilling mutual trust and confidence through defence cooperation; seeking early settlement of outstanding issues; promoting trans-border connectivity and cooperation; boosting cooperation in Science and Technology; revitalising cultural ties and nurturing people-to-people exchanges; and expanding cooperation on regional and international stage.