

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2898
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2006
INDO RUSSIAN TRADE
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna

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

- (a) the reasons for stagnation of Indo-Russian trade at US \$ 2 billions for more than a decade ;
- (b) whether any trade working groups consisting of both the countries have been constituted to increase the bilateral trade;
- (c) if so, the details thereon;
- (d) whether a woman business delegation of India recently visited Russia to increase trade between the two countries;
- (e) if so, the details thereon;
- (f) whether there are any plans to open again a chain store of Indian goods which was in operation during Soviet Union under the name `Ganga`; and
- g) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (c): The India-Russia bilateral trade has increased by 39.3% from US\$ 1.95 billion in 2004-05 to US\$ 2.72 billion in 2005-06. However, with a view to further increase the two countries` bilateral trade turnover to USD 10 billion by 2010, a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation has been signed on 6th February 2006 to set up a Joint Study Group (JSG) between India and Russia to prepare a program on significant increase of mutual trade turnover between India and Russia with an overall objective of diversifying and strengthening the bilateral relations in a wide range of areas, particularly with regard to trade in goods and services, investment and economic cooperation as well as feasibility to conclude the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation.

(d)&(e): Yes Sir. A 22 member FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO) business delegation visited Russia from 11th to 18th August, 2006 led by its President Ms. Mukta Nandani Jain. During the visit, they held meetings and discussions with various business organizations and associations.

(f) & (g): The Government of India has no such plans to open retail chain in Russia. Opening a chain of private stores of Indian goods in Russia is a matter of Russian retail trade, which may be driven by private industry and initiative.