

Title: Statement regarding signing of three agreements including the Extradition Treaty between India and the U.A.E.

14.14 hrs

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the United Arab Emirates Minister for Justice, Islamic Affairs and Awqaf, His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Bin Nakhira Al Dhaheri, accompanied by an official delegation, visited India on October 25-26, 1999. During the visit, an Extradition Treaty, an Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and an Agreement on Juridical and Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial matters between India and the UAE were signed.

The Extradition Treaty would provide a legal framework for seeking the extradition of fugitive criminals including those involved in terrorism and economic offences from either country. Under the Treaty, extradition would be possible irrespective of whether the crime was committed before or after the entry into force of this Treaty.

The Agreement on Juridical and Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial Matters aims to facilitate the widest measure of legal assistance in pursuing such cases. As a result of this Agreement, it will be possible to serve summons and other judicial documents issued by the courts of one country in the territory of the other. The judicial authority of one country could also, at the request of the other, take evidence. Further, the courts of one country would also be able to execute decrees and arbitration awards passed in the territory of the other.

The Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters aims to strengthen the cooperation between the two countries in the completion of investigation and prosecution in respect of all crimes, including those related to terrorism. It would provide the basis for seeking assistance for tracing, restraint, forfeiture or confiscation of the proceeds and instruments of crime. The Agreement will also facilitate the widest measure of mutual assistance in the service of summons, execution of warrants and other judicial documents and commissions.

Thus the three Treaties embody the desire of the two countries to make more effective the bilateral cooperation by taking concrete steps with a view to combat terrorism and other crimes.
