

**Bilateral trade with Central Asian countries**

2926. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has taken a very positive initiative to increase bilateral trade with Central Asian countries through India- Central Asia Business Council organised in the first week of February, 2020;

(b) the details of the major achievements of this meet after it was highlighted that despite huge scope and three decades old close relations, the volume of trade has not increased beyond US dollars two billion annually;

(c) whether certain collaborative areas could be identified for giving a push in near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) Yes.

(b) FICCI from India and the nominated national chambers of commerce from each of the five Central Asian countries, viz. Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan met on 06 February, 2020 in New Delhi to launch the India-Central Asia Business Council. The participants of the meeting resolved to maximize the economic potential of India and the Central Asian countries for mutual benefit through the promotion of sustainable growth and development and leveraging on economic complementarity. They reaffirmed their intent to enhance their investment and trade relations and identified Agriculture; Energy; Health and Pharma; Education and Skills Development and Information Technology as potential sectors of cooperation.

(c) Yes.

(d) The India-Central Asia Business Council decided to establish four working groups in the field of Energy (Oil and Gas and Renewable Energy); Agro, Food Processing and Textiles; Tourism and Pharmaceutical and life-sciences.

**Hosting of India-Central Asia Dialogue**

2927. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has offered to host Second India-Central Asia Dialogue with participation of Afghanistan during 2020;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any comprehensive agenda has been firmed up for the dialogue so that the same is circulated well in time for the participating countries to come prepared for fruitful discussions; and

(d) whether there is any plan to also organise one to one meeting of business and industry entrepreneurs to explore the possibility of signing MoUs under the overall banner of respective Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) Yes.

(b) At the First India-Central Asia Dialogue at the level of Foreign Ministers with the participation of Afghanistan held in Samarkand (Uzbekistan) in January, 2019, it was announced that the 2nd India-Central Asia Dialogue will be held in India in 2020. The dates for the Second India-Central Asia Dialogue with the participation of Afghanistan are to be finalized for which all the concerned countries are being consulted.

(c) The agenda for the Second India-Central Asia Dialogue is under preparation.

(d) The India-Central Asian Business Council was launched in New Delhi on 06 February, 2020 which provides a platform for business representatives from India and the Central Asian countries to explore cooperation and further deepen trade, economic and investment ties between India and Central Asia. FICCI from India and the nominated national chambers of commerce from each of the five Central Asian countries are part of the India-Central Asia Business Council.

**Non-compliance of guidelines by few Indians in New Zealand**

2928. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all persons of Indian origin residing in New Zealand are required to submit Power of Attorney to Courts in India only after authenticity of signatures and stamp fixed on documents by Indian High Commission of New Zealand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the High Commission of India in New Zealand has received