

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2318
ANSWERED ON- 20.03.2025

INDIA-QATAR BILATERAL RELATIONS

2318. SHRI KESRIDEVSINH JHALA

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

- (a) the details of the discussion held during three-day official visit of the External Affairs Minister to Qatar and how it will contribute to strengthening India-Qatar bilateral relations;
- (b) the initiatives being proposed to enhance co-operation in sectors such as renewable energy and technology during the meetings with Qatari officials;
- (c) whether India and Qatar plan to collaborate further on energy; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) External Affairs Minister (EAM) paid an official visit to Qatar from 30 December 2024 to 1 January 2025. During the visit, he held a bilateral meeting with Qatar's Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani at which they reviewed the entire gamut of the bilateral relations including reviewing the preparations of the State Visit of His Highness the Amir of the State of Qatar to India. They also discussed recent regional and global developments.

The visit of EAM to Qatar was followed by the State Visit of His Highness the Amir of the State of Qatar to India on February 17-18, 2025. During the visit, both sides agreed to elevate the relations to a Strategic Partnership. The following agreements/MOUs were signed/exchanged:

- i. Agreement on the Establishment of Bilateral Strategic Partnership
- ii. Revised Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and its Protocol
- iii. MoU between Ministry of Finance, India and Ministry of Finance, Qatar on Financial and Economic Cooperation
- iv. MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Youth and Sports
- v. MOU for Cooperation in the field of Documents and Archives
- vi. MoU between Invest India and Invest Qatar
- vii. MoU between Confederation of Indian Industry and Qatari Businessmen Association

The Agreement on the Establishment of Bilateral Strategic Partnership between India and Qatar will further strengthen the bilateral ties in various fields including political, trade, energy, investment, security, culture and people-to-people ties.

The Revised Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on income will ensure fair allocation of taxing rights, effective tax disputes resolution mechanism, prevention of treaty abuse and effective exchange of information. It is also expected to create a more favourable environment for businesses and investors in both countries.

The MOU between Ministry of Finance, India and Ministry of Finance, Qatar on Financial and Economic Cooperation will further strengthen financial and economic collaboration between both the countries.

Additionally, the other MOUs signed during the visit would facilitate regular interaction between the respective institutions of India and Qatar, including in the field of sports and youth affairs, documents and archives as well as promote investment partnerships, business networks and trade linkages.

During the State Visit of the Amir, the Qatar side also expressed interest to explore investment opportunities in different sectors, including infrastructure, technology, manufacturing, food security, logistics, hospitality, and other areas of mutual interest. The Qatar side also announced a commitment to invest USD 10 billion in India. Additionally, the Qatar Investment Authority has decided to open an office in India.

(b) to (d) During the meeting of EAM Dr S Jaishankar in Qatar and during the State Visit of His Highness the Amir of Qatar to India, India and Qatar agreed to continue to enhance engagement in various fields, including renewable energy and technology. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the bilateral relations through regular and structured cooperation inter alia trade, investment, energy, technology, innovation, and sustainability. Moreover, the two sides expressed interest in pursuing deeper collaboration in technology and innovation, including emerging technologies, startups, and Artificial Intelligence. They also discussed avenues for furthering e-Governance and sharing best practices in the digital sector. Both sides welcomed the participation of Indian startups in Web Summits in Qatar in 2024-25. Recently, an Indian Startup delegation participated in the Web Summit 2025 held in Doha from February 23-26, 2025.

India and Qatar have a robust cooperation in the field of energy. In February 2024, both sides renewed a long-term deal for the supply of LNG from Qatar to India for 20 years starting in 2028. Both sides have agreed to further enhance bilateral energy cooperation, including through the promotion of trade and mutual investment in energy infrastructure and regular meetings of the relevant stakeholders from both sides, including the Joint Task Force on Energy.
