

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1836
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 22/12/2022

VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO INDIA

1836. SMT. SHANTA CHHETRI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the visit of Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates to India;
- (b) whether any bilateral agreements have been signed with them;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to keep good relations with United Arab Emirates?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a) UAE Foreign Minister H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan visited India on November 21-22, 2022 and met External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar. The visit was part of regular consultations between the two countries on bilateral as well as global issues of mutual interest.

Both Ministers reviewed the progress in bilateral relations across different domains, since the 14th Joint Commission Meeting held by them in September 2022, including in trade, investment, consular matters, education and food security.

Bilateral trade between India and UAE has shown appreciable growth under the CEPA Agreement which was signed on February 18, 2022 and came into force on May 1, 2022. India's exports to UAE between April-September 2022 were about USD 16 billion which was an increase of 24% compared to same period last year. Both sides also held the meeting of Joint Committee on Consular Affairs and Joint Working Group on Manpower in October and November 2022.

India and UAE have also taken forward their discussions on other areas of cooperation including energy, healthcare, defence, space, climate change, skills, fin-tech and start-ups.

(b) & (c) No bilateral agreement was signed during the recent visit of UAE Foreign Minister to India.

(d) Government has paid special attention to maintaining excellent relations with the UAE, including through exchange of visits at the highest level and enhancing engagement in different sectors.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has paid four visits to the UAE in the past eight years, the last being in June, 2022 during which he met the UAE President H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Prime Minister and H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed also held a Virtual Summit on February 18, 2022.

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan visited India in 2016 and 2017. He was the Chief Guest on Republic Day in 2017 and the bilateral relationship was elevated to comprehensive strategic partnership during the visit.
