GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS **RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1677** ANSWERED ON- 13/03/2025

MOUS AND AGREEMENTS BETWEEN INDIA AND QATAR

1677. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB

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

(a) whether India has signed any MoU, other agreements for cooperation with Qatar, during the recent visit of Emir of Qatar;

(b) if so, the details of the same;

(c) the major outcomes expected out of this agreement;

(d) whether Qatar has agreed to make any significant investment in India in the coming times;

(e) if so, the details of the same;

(f) the current status of foreign trade with Qatar annually; and

(g) the details of the same in each sector of business and trade separately for the last five years?

ANSWER

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

(a & b) During the State Visit of His Highness the Amir of the State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to India on February 17-18, 2025, 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 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.

(c) 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.

(d & e) The Qatar side 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.

			(in US\$ Millions)	
S.No.	Particulars	2023-2024	2024-2025 (Apr-Jan) (A)*	
1.	Exports to Qatar	1,700.01	1,430.34	
2.	Imports from Qatar	12,342.51	10,191.91	
3.	TOTAL TRADE	14,042.51	11,622.25	

(f) Current Status of Bilateral trade between India and Qatar

Source: DGCIS (*Data is Provisional)

(g) Bilateral Trade with Qatar during Financial Year 2019-20 to 2023-24

			(in US\$ Millions)		
<u>Year</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	2023-2024
EXPORT	1,268.35	1,284.82	1,837.75	1,966.78	1,700.01
IMPORT	9,685.98	7,930.15	13,193.70	16,808.10	12,342.51
TOTAL TRADE	10,954.33	9,214.97	15,031.45	18,774.88	14,042.52
	EXPORT IMPORT TOTAL	EXPORT 1,268.35 IMPORT 9,685.98 TOTAL 10,954.33	EXPORT 1,268.35 1,284.82 IMPORT 9,685.98 7,930.15 TOTAL 10,954.33 9,214.97	EXPORT 1,268.35 1,284.82 1,837.75 IMPORT 9,685.98 7,930.15 13,193.70 TOTAL 10,954.33 9,214.97 15,031.45	EXPORT 1,268.35 1,284.82 1,837.75 1,966.78 IMPORT 9,685.98 7,930.15 13,193.70 16,808.10 TOTAL 10,954.33 9,214.97 15,031.45 18,774.88

Source: DGCIS
