

India-Nauru Relations

Nauru, an island nation in the South Pacific, attained independence in 1968.

Bilateral relations have been cordial and friendly. The Indian High Commissioner to Fiji is concurrently accredited to Nauru. Nauru has an Honorary Consul General in New Delhi.

Nauru had invested in Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (incorporated in 1981) a joint venture between Governments of India and Nauru.

Former President Bernard Dowiyogo visited India in June 1993, when Nauru dis-invested its shares due to the losses incurred worth A\$63.8 million in Paradeep Phosphate Ltd. India bought Nauru's equity for the amount Nauru had initially invested.

Former President Kinza Clodumar visited India during April, 1998 to attend the First Assembly Meeting of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The visit was utilized for bilateral exchange of views and President was treated as a state guest for two days after the GEF meeting.

Directly recruited Indian expatriates have held positions in Nauru and their services have been appreciated by Government of Nauru. Shri Sasi Kumar is presently working with the Chief Secretary of the Nauru Government as Director (Administration).

In August 2003, President Rene Harris wrote to our Prime Minister seeking India's help in power plant, water desalination plant, computer system and loan of Australian \$ 10 million. In November 2003, Government of Nauru again requested for deputation of a team of experts in the field of computer, mining of phosphate, power generation and desalination plant. In June 2004, Government deputed a computer expert for a period of 10 days to make on the spot assessment of their requirements and provide suitable guidance to Nauru for necessary repairs, re-operationalisation and replacements etc of its computer system.

India has supplied one 16 seater Mini Van for the use of Nauru Members of Parliament, one 8 seater for the use of the Speaker of the Nauru Parliament and two 30 seaters bus for the use of the school children in 2007. Grant-in-aid of US \$ 100,000 was released by our Mission in Suva in 2008 to the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat for recruitment of teachers for Nauru. Since the Forum Secretariat could not recruit any teachers, the balance amount is to be transferred to Government of Nauru. Ministry has also sanctioned US \$ 1,86,000 to the Government of Nauru for funding the construction of Government Expatriate Employees Apartment project out of the grant-in-aid for the year 2007 and 2008.

Shri BR Mondal, an audit officer from India worked as Director of Audit, Government of Nauru under ITEC programme from 2008-11, and produced an Audit Report for Nauru pending for a decade. Shri Shourjo Chatterjee, Director (IT) from

the Office of Comptroller and Auditor General has been selected to replace him under the ITEC programme.

President Marcus Stephen visited India in October 2010 for the New Delhi Commonwealth Games. Nauru won a gold and a silver medal in weightlifting at the Games.

5 slots have been provided to Nauru for training courses under the ITEC programme in the year 2010-11. One scholarship slot is also offered under General Cultural Scholarship of ICCR (Commonwealth Scheme).

High Commissioner Shri Vinod Kumar visited Nauru in April 2011 for presentation of credentials and called on President Marcus Stephen and others.

January 2012