

AGREED MINUTES
OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE JOINT COMMISSION
FOR ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA

Pursuant to the Agreement for the establishment of the Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Republic of Cuba, signed on 29th December 1989, the Third Session of the Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between both countries was held in New Delhi from 20th to 22nd November, 1996.

The discussions were held in an atmosphere of friendship, sincerity and cordiality which characterizes the relations between the Republic of India and the Republic of Cuba.

The Indian delegation was headed by Shri V.K. Grover, Secretary(West) of the Ministry of External Affairs.

The Cuban delegation was headed by Mrs. Noemi Benitez y de Mendoza, Vice-Minister of the Ministry for Foreign Investment and Economic Cooperation.

The members of both delegations are listed under Annexes I and II of the present Agreed Minutes.

During the visit, Vice-Minister Noemi Benitez y de Mendoza met with the following personalities :-

1. Shri I.K. Gujral, Minister of External Affairs
2. Dr. B.B. Ramaiah, Minister of State for Commerce
3. Shri Tejendra Khanna, Secretary,
Ministry of Commerce
4. Dr. R.S. Paroda, Secretary(DARE) & DG(ICAR),
Ministry of Agriculture
5. Shri B.R. Prabhakara, Secretary,
Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources
6. Shri A.N. Ram, Secretary(Economic Relations),
Ministry of External Affairs
7. Shri P.P. Chauhan, Secretary(Health),
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
8. Shri K. Rajan, Secretary(A&C),
Ministry of Agriculture

The decisions and the conclusions of the meeting are summarized below :-

I. REVIEW OF THE DECISIONS OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE JOINT COMMISSION :-

Both Parties reviewed the results of the implementation of the decision of the Second Session of the Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, and noted that, in spite of financial constraints, useful exchanges on various proposals had taken place leading to further strengthening of bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

II. COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY :-

Both Parties expressed satisfaction at the progress made in the field of Scientific and Technological Cooperation and endorsed the cooperation programmes finalised during the course of the Joint Commission. The Parties signed Cooperation Programmes in the following areas for the period 1997-98 :-

- Science & Technology
- Agricultural Research
- Non-Conventional Energy Sources

The Cuban side proposed a Programme of Cooperation in the field of Environment that is being examined by the Indian side.

It was agreed that both Parties should continue to look for new areas of cooperation in Science & Technology.

The Cuban side renewed its invitations to the Ministers of the Ministries of Science & Technology, Environment and Forests, and Non-Conventional Energy Sources, and to the Director General of the Indian Council for Agricultural Research, to visit Cuba on dates that shall be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

III. ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ITEC) :-

The Cuban side acknowledged the benefits received from the scholarships granted under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) to Cuban nominees in different sectors. It reiterated its interest in its continuation and for utilising it primarily to implement the priorities of the Cooperation Programmes signed in the different sectors of Science & Technology.

The Indian side agreed to cover under the ITEC Programme activities included in the Cooperation Programmes finalised for the period 1997 and 1998 by the Ministry of Science & Technology, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, the Department of Agricultural Research & Education(DARE), and the Department of Biotechnology of the Government of India under an overall ceiling of 20 slots per annum.

Both Parties noted the good performance of the solar energy pilot plant provided under the ITEC Programme and installed in Santiago de Cuba. The Cuban side expressed its interest in receiving spare parts for this plant and the Indian side agreed to examine this request.

The Cuban side renewed its invitation to the Director of the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) to visit Cuba on a date to be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

IV. COMMERCIAL COOPERATION :

The discussions held in the meeting of the Trade Revival Committee(TRC) on 18-19th November, 1996 were noted. It was agreed in the TRC that an Indian delegation including officials from the STC would visit Havana by the end of December, 1996 to discuss with Alimport and Cubaniquel the subject of rice exports to Cuba and the appropriate guarantees to be offered. The Cuban side stated that they were looking forward to receiving rice on deferred payment of 360 days for which they would be ready to discuss the terms further with STC. Issues such as availability of nickel supplies, nature of guarantees offered, enforceability of guarantees, etc., would be discussed in detail in these meetings.

As regards the reschedulement of debt, the Cuban side agreed to send a proposal for refreshing the debt in accordance with discussions held in Mumbai with officials of the ECGC. It was decided that if debt repayments and the aforementioned discussions proceeded in the expected manner, then ECGC may be in a position to re-examine the subject of insurance cover.

As regards the subject of cooperation in the area of commercialisation and import of Cuban medicines into India, it was decided that the Indian Ministry of Health & Family Welfare would send a delegation to Cuba shortly to discuss aspects relating to the trading of Cuban medicines and their commercialisation and to link this with the issue of repayment of debt. Representatives of the respective Foreign Trade Ministries would be associated with the deliberations in this regard. The terms of reference for the proposed visit of the delegation were provided to the Cuban side to which a response would be available.

On the subject of reduction of duties for import of nickel, it was clarified that keeping in view the fact that India imports nickel from many sources, duties cannot be reduced for only one country in view of MFN/WTO considerations. STC, with the possible assistance of MMTC, would meanwhile commence to examine this subject, especially the level of imports of nickel commercially required by India.

It was also agreed that the next meeting of the Trade Revival Committee could be held in Havana in March, 1997 and stock would be taken of the developments and progress made consequent to the first meeting of the TRC.


It was also decided that keeping in view the positive atmosphere created by the visit of the Indian JBC delegation to Cuba in November, 1995, the next meeting of the JBC could be held in New Delhi, India in May, 1997 and the visiting Cuban business delegation could also tour other parts of India to apprise themselves of areas from which to attract joint ventures and collaborations between Indian and Cuban companies. This would help promote joint ventures in fields already identified such as bicycles, motorcycles, harvesters, parabolic antennas, software, sugar, textiles, tourism, etc.

V. ECONOMIC COOPERATION :-

SPECIFIC PROJECTS :

A. AGRICULTURE:

The Cuban side renewed the invitation to the Indian Minister of Agriculture to visit Cuba on dates to be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.



B. SPIRULINA:

Both Parties expressed their satisfaction at the positive exchange of experience between the National Research and Development Corporation of India (NRDC) and the Spirulina Development Group of the Ministry of Agriculture of Cuba, which took place during the visit to Cuba of the representative of NRDC.

The Cuban side reiterated its interest in carrying out cooperation related to the technology for production of spirulina, its commercialisation, and the development of byproducts. To this end, a representative of the Spirulina Development Group of Cuba shall travel to India at the invitation of NRDC.

C. SUGAR:

The Cuban side offered different engineering and technical services related to sugar agroindustry, provided by TECNOAZUCAR enterprise. The Indian side took note of this offer and stated that they would inform Indian Trade and Industry about it.

D. BICYCLES AND MOTORCYCLES:

The Cuban side requested consideration of the possibility for joint production of bicycles in Cuba. The Cuban side also expressed its readiness to start talks for the establishment of Joint Ventures with Indian firms in order to assemble motorcycles in Cuba. The Indian side took note of this and agreed to disseminate this information to Indian Trade and Industry.

E. SUGARCANE HARVESTER KTP-2:

The Cuban side reiterated its readiness to cooperate in the field of production of Sugarcane Harvesters. The Indian side took note of this.

F. SOFTWARE:

Both Parties agreed to explore cooperation in the creation and commercialisation of software especially for the hotel, sugar, cement and Petroleum industries.

G. GARMENT AND TEXTILE INDUSTRY:

The Cuban side provided information on the possibilities of setting up Joint Ventures in Cuba in the ready-made garments and textile industries. The Indian side took note of this and offered to inform Indian Trade and Industry suitably.

H. FISHERIES:

The Cuban side reiterated its interest to continue exploring cooperation possibilities in industrial processing and the trade of shrimps. The Cuban side renewed its invitation to a delegation of Indian entrepreneurs to visit Cuba during the first quarter of 1997 in order to initiate actions to be implemented by both countries. This was noted by the Indian side for taking up suitably with the Indian fishing industry.

I. HEALTH:

The Cuban side renewed its invitation to the Minister of Health & Family Welfare to visit Cuba on dates to be agreed upon through diplomatic channels towards promoting mutually beneficial cooperation.

J. FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The Cuban side requested information related to financial management in general, budgetary activity, treasury function, fiscal policy and personnel training among others, with the objective of learning from the Indian experience in these activities.

K. INVESTMENT PROMOTION:

Both Parties noted the progress achieved towards entering into an Agreement for the Promotion and Protection of Investments, which will benefit development of joint businesses.

Both sides agreed to exchange information on the business opportunities available in the two countries in order to promote investments.

VI. CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME AND SPORTS PROTOCOL :-

Both Parties expressed their satisfaction at the signing of the Cultural and Educational Exchange Programme for 1995-98 in November, 1995. Both sides agreed to accelerate the implementation of the Programme.

Both Parties reiterated their interest in signing a Sports Protocol for the period 1997-98.

The Cuban side expressed its readiness to consider the request of the Indian side for receiving Cuban sports coaches and for sending Indian coaches and sportspersons for training in Cuba.

VII. DATE AND VENUE OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE JOINT COMMISSION :-

Both Parties agreed to hold the Fourth Session of the Joint Commission in the Ciudad de Havana in the second half of 1998 and that a mid-term review meeting could also take place on a mutually-agreed date and place in 1997.

Done in New Delhi, this 22nd of November, 1996, in two originals in the English and Spanish languages both, texts having identical validity. In case of doubt in the interpretation of the document, the English text shall prevail.



For the Government of
the Republic of India



For the Government of
the Republic of Cuba

THIRD SESSION OF THE
INDO-CUBAN JOINT COMMISSION
NEW DELHI - NOVEMBER 18-22, 1996

INDIAN DELEGATION

- | | | |
|-----|---|--------|
| 1. | Shri V.K. Grover,
Secretary(West),
Ministry of External Affairs | Leader |
| 2. | Dr. A.P. Kulshreshtha,
Advisor,
Deptt. of Science & Technology | Member |
| 3. | Shri B. Shetty,
Joint Secretary(TC),
Ministry of External Affairs | - do - |
| 4. | Shri Sanjay Singh,
Joint Secretary(LAC),
Ministry of External Affairs | - do - |
| 5. | Shri G.S. Sahni,
Joint Secretary, DARE, and
Secretary, ICAR
Ministry of Agriculture | - do - |
| 6. | Shri U.N. Panjiar,
Joint Secretary(IC),
Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources | - do - |
| 7. | Dr. P. Dasgupta,
Drugs Controller General of India,
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare | - do - |
| 8. | Dr. T.C. Tripathi,
Director(IC),
Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources | - do - |
| 9. | Shri Raghav Chandra,
Director,
Ministry of Commerce | - do - |
| 10. | Dr. (Smt.) Sulbha Gupta,
Director,
Deptt. of Science & Technology | - do - |
| 11. | Dr. B.M. Gandhi,
Director,
Deptt. of Biotechnology | - do - |
| 12. | Shri S.P. Singh,
Director,
Deptt. of Economic Affairs | - do - |
| 13. | Shri Gautam Guha,
Deputy Secretary,
Deptt. of Youth Affairs & Sports | - do - |



- | | | |
|-----|---|--------|
| 14. | Shri A.V.S. Prasad,
Executive Director,
Sports Authority of India | Member |
| 15. | Shri D.V. Gupta,
CMD,
Central Electronics Ltd.,
Sahibabad | - do - |
| 16. | Shri G.S. Murthy,
General Manager,
National Industrial Development Corporation
New Delhi | - do - |
| 17. | Shri H.K.L. Batra,
Under Secretary(LAC),
Ministry of External Affairs | - do - |

