

April, 28, 2017

Joint Press Statement

The 6th India-Suriname Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) Co-Chaired by the Minister of State for External Affairs General (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd) and the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Suriname, H.E. Mrs. Yldiz Pollack-Beighle, was held in Paramaribo on April 28, 2017. Both Ministers underscored the importance of the JCM mechanism in deepening political dialogue, reviewing bilateral ties, and exchanging views on regional and multilateral cooperation.

2. Both sides noted with satisfaction that India-Suriname relations, which have a strong cultural and historical basis, are marked by cordiality and a high degree of understanding and close proximity on current principal issues. Both sides reiterated their desire to strengthen bilateral relations based on the traditionally close ties between the two countries.

3. The discussions were held in an atmosphere of warmth in the backdrop of friendly India-Suriname relations, which have a strong cultural and historical basis, marked by cordiality and a high degree of understanding. Both sides reiterated their desire to strengthen bilateral relations based on the traditionally close ties between the two countries.

4. Government of India's Minister of State for External Affairs, General (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd) handed over a cheque of US\$150,000 to the Government of Suriname as humanitarian assistance for the rehabilitation of the victims of recent flooding in the interior of Suriname. Foreign Minister of the Republic of Suriname, H.E. Mrs. Yldiz Pollack-Beighle, accepted the cheque with gratitude on behalf of the Government of Suriname.

Minister Pollack-Beighle has indicated that proposals will be submitted under the conditions of the small development assistance programme and Minister Singh stated that the Indian Government is looking forward to receiving the proposals for favourable consideration.

5. The two Ministers acknowledged the importance of undertaking developmental projects under concessional conditions, e.g. Line of Credit, in the spirit of South-South cooperation.

Indian side informed that the two projects in the field of upgrading Suriname's transmission network as to contribute to energy security, energy efficiency and energy mix, and one project upgrading the production facilities of the State Dairy Company, are under active consideration for approval.

Surinamese side appreciated continuation of the Line of Credit for new projects in the areas of agriculture, renewable energy, production, tourism and traditional medicines. In this context the Surinamese side appreciated the continuation of the LOC to the amount of US\$ 30 million.

6. The Ministers reiterated their commitment to provide mutual support in international fora, including United Nations Security Council Reforms.

7. Both Ministers stressed the importance of cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and agreed to explore the possibilities for Suriname to develop as the hub for Latin America and the Caribbean in this field. Suriname is currently in the process of informing and involving relevant national stakeholders to prepare for signing the relevant Memorandums of Understanding with India, that include education, academic chair, pharmaceuticals and other related industries.

8. Both sides expressed satisfaction on the tangible outcome of the 6th Joint Commission in the form of signing of three Memorandums of Understanding in the areas of:

- i. Visa waiver for holders of diplomatic, official and service passports;
- ii. Work Plan of Joint Working Group (JWG) on Agriculture for 2017-21;
- iii. Suriname Bureau of Standards and the Indian Bureau of Standards

9. The Indian side expressed sincere thanks to the Government of the Republic of Suriname for all the hospitality extended to them and the excellent arrangements made for their visit to Suriname.

10. It was agreed that the next Meeting would be held in New Delhi in 2019 on a mutually convenient date.
