

**PROTOCOL BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT  
OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC ON ECONOMIC  
AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION**  
**Damascus, 22 October 1977**

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Guided by the principles of friendship binding together the Syrian Arab people and the people of India;

In consolidation of the existing relations of cooperation between the two countries on the basis of common interest and mutual respect;

And as result of the discussions held in Damascus during the period from 18 October to 21 October 1977 between the Syrian delegation headed by Mr. Jameel Shayya, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, and the Indian delegation led by Shri George Fernandes, Minister of Industry;

It was agreed to stimulate trade exchange, consolidate economic, industrial, scientific and technical cooperation and expand its scope by entering into the following new fields :

OIL

The Indian side agreed to cooperate in this field on the basis of service contracts and will send within one month a delegation to finalise the terms of the contract in respect of the area identified during the discussion.

PHOSPHATE

The Indian side expressed their acceptance of the specifications of Syrian rock phosphate and indicated their desire to import rock phosphate from Syria. An Indian delegation, with sufficient authorisation, will visit the Syrian Arab Republic to determine the quantities, other terms and conditions and settle the commercial contract.

The Indian Side agreed to cooperate in upgrading mining and development of the Syrian rock phosphate. They will send a team of

Indian experts shortly to negotiate the agreement to establish Indo-Syrian joint ventures for the development of this industry.

It was also agreed that the modalities of the payment of Indian importations of Syrian rock phosphate and its development will be worked out mutually on the basis of cash payment, credit terms or equity participation and supplies from India of railway equipments and billets.

#### MINING OF IRON ORE AND DEVELOPMENT OF IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY

The Indian side appreciated the importance given by the Syrian side to optimum utilisation of the Syrian Iron Ore resources, in preference to imports, for the development of this industry. The Indian side expressed their readiness to enter into Indo-Syrian joint ventures for the development of the Iron and Steel industry including mining and a steel mill based on the utilisation of indigenous Syrian iron ore.

The two sides agreed on a detailed study to be conducted by Indian technical personnel who would shortly visit Syria for this purpose.

#### TRADE EXCHANGE

In harmony with the developing trade relations between Syria and India, the two sides agreed to finalise a new trade agreement with the purpose of expanding and increasing the trade exchanges between the two countries. The Syrian side submitted a new draft trade agreement. The Indian side will study this in order to conclude it later.

#### SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

In order to develop scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries, and in consonance with requirement of economic development, the two sides agreed to conclude an agreement for scientific and technical cooperation, organising the exchange of experts, deputation of trainees in different fields, particularly in the industrial management and technology, medicine and nursing, medico-technical services, planning and statistics, cost accountancy and engineering and encouraging cooperation in the field of joint scientific research, and setting up of industrial institutes and training centres.

The Indian side expressed their readiness to assist in meeting Syrian requirements for managerial and technical personnel needed at various levels for industrial enterprises, deputing doctors and other medical personnel, assisting in the centres in Syria, and affording

spheres of training to Syrian personnel in India. In order to achieve this, the Syrian side submitted a draft agreement in this regard for study by the Indian side with a view to early conclusion.

#### AGRO-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEXES

The Indian side appreciated the importance attached by the Syrian side to the establishment of integrated agro-industrial complexes and expressed their readiness to depute a team of Indian experts to assist in the preparation and planning of such complexes. The scope of Indian participation in such projects would be settled between the two sides on the completion of these studies. The Indian side also agreed to send an expert team to extend technical assistance in conducting economic and technical studies for the development of the edible oils and industry, particularly the oils extracted from soyabean, sunflower and cotton seed.

#### INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

The importance of industrial estates comprising integrated complexes of large, ancillary and small scale industries was emphasised. The Indian side expressed their readiness to provide necessary technical assistance in this regard. It was agreed that surveys for establishment of such industrial estates would be prepared by Indian experts who would visit Syria in this connection.

#### LOW-COST INDUSTRIAL HOUSING

The Indian side agreed to assist in the preparation of necessary studies, drawing up plans and participation in the implementation of low cost industrial housing projects for providing housing facilities with infrastructure amenities for the workers.

#### AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT

The two sides agreed to expedite negotiations to facilitate the conclusion of a mutually acceptable air services agreement.

#### OTHER INDUSTRIES

Desirous of benefiting from the progress India has realised in some industries, the two sides agreed on detailed studies to be carried out to identify the ways and means of cooperation and participation in the following industries :

Textiles, machines tools industry, railways, cement and rural electrification.

DONE, this day October, 22, 1977 in Damascus in two original copies, each in Arabic and English, both being valid and effective.

On behalf of the Government  
of the Republic of India

On behalf on the Government  
of the Syrian Arab Republic

*Sd/-*

GEORGE FERNANDES  
Minister of Industry

*Sd/-*

JAMEEL SHAYYA  
Deputy Prime Minister for  
Economic Affairs

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