

Remarks by Hon'ble MOS (P&NG) at Signing Ceremony
between MRPL, India and STC, Mauritius
for supply of petroleum products
(Thursday, the 1st July, 2010 at 1230 hrs)

I extend warm welcome to you, Excellency, on your visit to India. I hope you had a good visit to MRPL to see our refinery and its world-class facilities.

At the very outset, I wish to congratulate you on your appointment as the Minister of Industry and Commerce, following the recent General Elections in Mauritius. We in India were happy to observe the successful conduct and conclusion of the 10th General elections in Mauritius.

Excellency, Mauritius enjoys a special place in our hearts and minds. Our relations are based on centuries of cultural, linguistic, and religious linkages. As Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has remarked, "India and Mauritius share unique ties". These ties are indeed of extraordinary nature. There is a complete political consensus between major parties in both countries that our privileged ties need to be further strengthened.

The commonalities and the depth of our people-to-people contacts make Mauritius and India natural partners. As a dynamic economy ourselves growing annually at 7-8 %, we also feel proud of your achievements. Mauritius is a unique success

story in many ways – it has brought about a successful economic transformation to a vibrant economy with well developed industrial and services sectors; it has a stable and democratic political system and has managed to preserve social harmony in a multi-ethnic and pluralistic environment. Your achievements have made Mauritius a well-respected member of the international community.

We are particularly satisfied that the Agreement between MRPL and STC Mauritius for supply of petroleum products has functioned well. These business ties between MRPL and STC Mauritius for the past four years have added a yet another important dimension to our strong relationship.

I am happy that the Government of Mauritius has entrusted to MRPL the responsibility to supply of petroleum products for another three years. From the Indian side, I can assure you of high quality petroleum products on time, as per your requirements, at most reasonable prices. We do appreciate the commitment of the Government of Mauritius to go ahead with the conclusion of the supply contract, which we have just witnessed.

I may also mention that another of our oil company, Indian Oil Corporation, is also doing well in Mauritius and would like to expand its activities, with support from your side.

Excellency, PETROTECH 2010, the 9th International Oil & Gas Conference is being organised in New Delhi from October 31 – November 3, 2010. The Conference will showcase the strengths and opportunities of the Indian oil and gas industry. It would be our privilege and honour to have you here for the Conference later this year.

Thank you.

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