

Parl-gov't collaboration helps resolve agricultural issues:

President

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said collaboration between the Parliament and government is among the most effective measures to solve problems of the agricultural sector of the country.

Speaking in a meeting with the members of the Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources and Environment Committee of the Parliament on Wednesday evening, Pezeshkian noted that the improper implementation of the Vision 2025 plan and macro-policies of the country is among the reasons for failing in achieving the goals in this area, according to president.ir.

The main problems of agriculture, water, natural resources and environment at the national and regional levels were discussed in the meeting.

Efforts to modify the management of existing water resources, planning to prevent power outages of agricultural wells in the next crop year, allocating adequate resources for the guaranteed purchase of agricultural products (particularly wheat) in the next year, were among the issues raised by the lawmakers.

Appropriate distribution of agricultural inputs at a reasonable price, paying more attention to healthy cultivation considering its importance in promoting public health, watchful monitoring of the performance of the Farm Product Pricing Council as well as more attention to the environment along with increasing the share of the agricultural sector from budget resources and bank facilities were other issues discussed in the meeting.

President Pezeshkian has unveiled his cabinet nominees in a list presented to the Iranian Parliament for approval as Gholamreza Nouri-Qezeljeh is proposed for the Agriculture Ministry.

Nouri-Qezeljeh, a representative from Bostanabad in the Iranian Parliament, holds a Master's degree in Agricultural Engineering and is pursuing a PhD in Agricultural Policy and Development.

The Iranian Parliament's specialized committees completed deliberations on Pezeshkian's cabinet lineup on Wednesday after four days of discussions.

The proposed ministers are also slated to be discussed in the Parliament's plenary sessions as of August 17. Pezeshkian was elected as the new Iranian president in a runoff election on July 5 after late president Ebrahim Raisi lost his life in a tragic helicopter crash in May.

Envoy: Improved economic bonds 'effective catalysts' for better India-Iran ties

Chabahar deal signifies boost

in Tehran-New Delhi relations: *Iran's acting FM*



Indian Ambassador in Iran Rudra Gaurav Shresth (R) delivers his speech in a ceremony to mark the 78th Independence Day of the Republic of India in Tehran on August 15, 2024, as Iranian Acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani looks on. **IRAN DAILY**

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Improved economic inter-linkages are effective catalysts for better political relations between India and Iran, said Indian Ambassador to Iran Rudra Gaurav Shresth.

Speaking at a ceremony to celebrate the 78th Independence Day of the Republic of India in Tehran on Thursday evening, Ambassador Shresth noted that, "As we commence work on enhancing the capacity of Chabahar Port, we hope that this project will lead to progressive increase in economic exchanges between South Asia, Central Asia and West Asia, and also with the wider Eurasian region."

Every year, 15th of August is celebrated as the day of inde-

pendence from the British rule in India that lasted for an official 100 years.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the envoy stated that, "Our leadership looks forward to working constructively with the newly elected Iranian administration for advancing our bilateral relations and contributing to regional prosperity, connectivity, and stability."

Referring to developments during the past months, Shresth said we were witness to a remarkable frequency of high-level exchanges and visits.

"In July last year, our Deputy National Security Advisor was in Iran for a trilateral meeting between Iran, India and Russia on operationalizing the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC). In November 2023, our Foreign Secretary visited for bilateral consultations

with his counterpart. In January 2024, External Affairs Minister Dr. Jaishankar held extensive discussions in Tehran with late foreign minister Amir-Abdollahian, with late president Raisi, with Transport Minister Dr. Bazrpash, and with the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Dr. Ahmadian," he noted.

The Indian diplomat went on to say that without doubt, the highlight of our bilateral engagement this year was the visit of our Minister for Shipping and Ports on May 13 for the signature of the long-term contract for joint development of Chabahar Port. "High-level visits are often an indicator of the diplomatic importance and priority accorded by a country to another, and I think you would agree that the frequency and stature of the Indian visitors to Iran over the past year

illustrate how critical a partner we regard the Islamic Republic of Iran," he noted.

The ceremony was also attended by Ali Baqeri, the acting Iranian foreign minister, as well as a number of other ambassadors to Iran.

Speaking at the event, Baqeri expressed his congratulations on the 78th Independence Day of the Republic of India and said cultural and civilizational commonalities are always an important and trust-building support for the promotion of all-round relations between Iran and India. Iran highlights India's important position in its foreign policy and emphasizes its readiness to take steps towards strengthening relations based on mutual respect and interests, the acting FM noted.

The support of the high officials of the two countries for the de-

velopment of bilateral relations is not a secret to anyone, Baqeri stated adding that one of the examples is the Chabahar Port contract, which was signed in May. Iran and India have been making efforts to improve relations in recent years.

In May, the two countries signed a 10-year contract for operation and equipment of the southern Iranian port city of Chabahar as part of plans to further boost their bilateral trade and economic relations.

Under the agreement, Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization will hand over parts of the freight and container terminals of the Shahid Beheshti Port of Chabahar to India for 10 years while India invests \$120 million for the supply of strategic equipment of the port and \$250 million on the transport infrastructure of Chabahar.

Pezeshkian urges acceleration in installing smart electricity meters



Following the increase in electricity consumption and the challenges caused by the fluctuations of the electricity grid in Iran, President Masoud Pezeshkian called for accelerating the installation of smart electricity meters.

On the sidelines of visiting the National Dispatching Center of the Energy Ministry, Pezeshkian expressed his hope that next year there will be less pressure on the country's electricity network by implementing the project on smart meters, ISNA reported.

He also said smart electricity meters will help the improvement of energy efficiency across the country.

A smart meter is an electronic device that records information such as consumption of electric energy, voltage levels, current, and power factor and communicates the information to the consumer and electricity suppliers.

Such an advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) differs from

automatic meter reading (AMR) in that it enables two-way communication between the meter and the supplier.

The development and installation of smart electricity meters in Iran has become one of the priorities of the electricity industry in recent years.

According to statistics, about 1.1 million smart meters have been installed in industrial and commercial sectors of Iran.

In the home sector, the process of installing smart meters has been done slowly as so far nearly one million smart meters have been installed in homes.

One of the main challenges in installing smart meters is their high initial costs, which have been costly for the government and consumers.

In recent years, the Ministry of Energy has made efforts to speed up the installation of meters by allocating special budgets and providing financial facilities. Also, plans are being implemented to encour-

age consumers to install these meters, such as offering special discounts on electricity bills.

Another important challenge is the communication infrastructure required for the optimal performance of these meters. Smart meters need a reliable communication system that can continuously transmit information to control centers. In many rural and remote areas of Iran, these infrastructures have not yet been fully provided, and this can slow down the implementation of smart meter installation projects.

Considering the increase in electricity demand and the need to improve the efficiency of electricity supply networks, the expansion of smart meters in Iran is a necessity. One of the main reasons for this necessity is the increase in population and the growth of electricity consumption, which puts more pressure on the electricity grid. The use of smart meters can help reduce this pressure and prevent extensive blackouts.