

**Alliance**, the Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister held discussions with the Australian Prime Minister and other Ministers and Officers on matter relating to cooperation between India and Australia in agriculture and other areas.

(b) During discussions, the Australian authorities showed considerable interest for collaboration in the areas among other, of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry including dairying, food processing and drip irrigation.

(c) As a follow-up to the discussions, a Team of Experts is currently visiting Australia to identify and formulate concrete proposals of cooperation between the two countries.

#### **Indo-Nepal Trade and Transit Issue**

5530. DR. DAULATRAO SONUJI AHER: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the progress made in finalising the agreements between India and Nepal regarding issues of trade and transit and working conditions of Indians in Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. GUJRAL): During the visit of the Foreign Minister of Nepal to India in January 1990, both sides agreed to work out a comprehensive solution to all outstanding issues between Nepal and India. Detailed official-level discussions at the level of Foreign Secretaries were held in New Delhi in February, 1990. The subjects of discussion included trade, transit, economic cooperation, security perceptions, treatment of each other's nationals, the zone of peace proposal, cooperation in the fields of industry and water resources etc. The next round of official level talks was held in Kathmandu from 31st March to 3rd April, 1990. The Indian side, on request, provided the Nepal-

ese side a copy of the comprehensive draft. The Nepalese side sought more time to consider this draft. This was accepted by us.

#### **Import of E-10-B Technology**

5531. SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to discard the technology developed by C-DOT and trying to import French E-10-B Technology in the country; and

(b) if so, the detailed reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) No, Sir. Transfer of Technology of E-10-B was negotiated and purchase completed in 1982 and these exchanges are being manufactured in India and the percentage of indigenisation has come down from about 70% to 20% in 89-90 and is expected to go down further to 12% in 90-91.

(b) Not applicable in view of answer to (a).

#### **Retrenchment of E. D. Employees**

5532. PROF. PREMKUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of E. D. employees retrenched during the period from 1989 to February, 1990 and the number of those out of them taken back on duty so far;

(b) the steps taken to stop retrenchment of E. D. employees; and

(c) whether all retrenched E. D. stamp vendors have been taken back on duty; if not, the reason thereof?