

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED).

(a) and (b) The Government of Assam has reported that Nine Primary Consumer Cooperative stores have been set up in Assam during 1991-92 and no target has been fixed for 1992-93

(c) and (d) The State Government of Assam provides financial assistance to the Consumer cooperative institution and the Government of India supplemented the efforts of the various State Governments including Assam through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of Urban Consumer Cooperatives. The scheme was in force till 31 3 1992 and has since been transferred to the State sector. The financial assistance given by Government of India covers assistance to set up small sized retail outlets, large sized retail outlets and Department stores. An amount of Rs 136.56 lakhs has been released for setting up 90 units in the State up to 31 3 1992

Prime Minister's Visit to France

*30 SHRI P M SAYEED
SHRI BRISHIN PATEL

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether during his recent visit to France he held talks with French leaders on bilateral and multilateral issues including supply of enriched uranium to India,

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed and the outcome thereof,

(c) whether any agreement/treaty was signed during the visit,

(d) if so, the broad details thereof,

(e) whether he also met Non-Resident Indians residing in France,

(f) whether they have shown any interest to invest in India, and

(g) if so, the expected quantum of investment from them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO)

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The two sides agreed to strengthen relations in the economic, commercial, technological, defence, scientific and cultural fields. The two sides exchanged views on multilateral issues such as NPT and bilateral nuclear cooperation and the Indian side reiterated its well known position. Regional issues such as European integration, South Asia etc were also discussed. The two sides agreed on the need for strengthening of the global role of the UN.

(c) and (d) An Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital was signed. The Agreement was signed by Secretary, Deptt of Economic Affairs from the Indian side and by his counterpart from the French side. The Treaty is expected to bring down present rates of corporate tax levied on French companies in India and vice versa, considerably.

(e) to (g) The Prime Minister met Non-Resident Indians in the reception hosted by our Ambassador in Paris. They showed interest, in general in investing in India. However, no specific quantum of investment was indicated by anyone.