

visited India from 3–5 April 1994. This was the first Foreign Minister-level visit from France in over five years. Mr. Juppe called on the Prime Minister, held talks with the External Affairs Minister and had separate meetings with the Finance Minister, the Home Minister and the Minister for Power. He also addressed Indian businessmen at a lunch organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

2. The main issues discussed during Mr. Juppe's meetings with Indian leaders included all aspects of bilateral relations, in particular the intensification of bilateral economic relations; the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and problems faced by India with externally sponsored terrorism; Indo-Pak relations; issues related to the international trading system; and non proliferation.

3. Mr. Juppe affirmed the desire of the French Government to intensify relations with Indian and give them fresh impetus. He conveyed the keenness of the French companies to increase their presence in the Indian market availing of the new opportunities created by India's economic reforms. In this context, he conveyed their interest in concluding a Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement to create a hospitable climate for French investments. With a view to enhancing bilateral economic relations, the French Minister for Trade and Industry is to visit India later this year for a meeting of the Indo-French Joint Commission and a high-level French business delegation is also to visit India in late 1994. Mr. Juppe conveyed that the French Government was prepared to conclude a Financial Protocol for 1994 for the utilisation of which suitable projects could be identified. The two sides also agreed to set up an Indo-French Forum to act

as a catalyst in bilateral relations in various fields.

3. No agreements were concluded during the visit.

4. Mr. Juppe was briefed on India's perceptions and concerns on the Kashmir issue, including Pakistan's support to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir which was hindering initiation of the political process in that State. Mr. Juppe affirmed French support for the resolution of all Indo-Pak issues through a bilateral dialogue and indicated that France was opposed to internationalisation of the Kashmir issue. He also stated that France condemned terrorism and external intervention and noted with appreciation India's policy of transparency on human rights as well as the strengthening of safeguards through the setting up of the National Human Rights Commission.

Deep Sea Fishing Industry

*517. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts from FAO have been looking into the causes of sickness in the Indian deep-sea fishing industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas where FAO expertise is being utilised; and

(c) the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A study was carried out by a FAO consultant for identifying avenues for the sustainable &

viable operation of deep sea fishing vessels in India.

[Translation]

(c) Salient features of the findings of the FAO consultant are furnished in the *Statement* attached.

STATEMENT

Salient features of the findings in the Report of FAO Consultant on study of deep sea fishing development in India.

- (1) Indian deep sea fishing fleet has the technical & managerial capacity to continue & diversify its fishing operations.
- (2) An available fishery resource of 1,64,000 tonnes can be exploited annually, having an export value of about US \$ 280 million, by the deep sea fishing vessels.
- (3) Gradual and phased redeployment of the deep sea fishing fleet and collection of catch data is necessary to enable an effective fisheries management.
- (4) Three types of demonstration commercial fishing, namely Oceanic Pelagic long lining, deep water trawling, Demersal lining & trapping, to establish commercial viability of diversified fishing operations, should be taken up.
- (5) Incentives and Credit facilities should be given to deep sea fishing industry for diversified fishing operations.

Shipment Capacity

*518. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shipment capacity is constantly declining in the country;

(b) the quantum of goods in tonne transported by the ship of the Shipping Corporation of India during 1992-93 as compared to 1991-92; and

(c) the profit earned by the Shipping Corporation of India during 1992-93 as compared to 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Shipping Corporation of India Limited have carried 384.37 lakh revenue tons during 1992-93 as against 378.87 lakh revenue tons in 1991-92.

(c) The Shipping Corporation of India Limited have earned profit to the extent of Rs. 143.18 crores during 1992-93 as against Rs. 108.86 crores in 1991-92.

[English]

Private Participation in Power Sector

*519. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state: