

(a) whether an agreement has been reached between India and France in regard to increase in trade between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b). On conclusion of discussion in the Seventh meeting of the Indo-French Joint Committee held in New Delhi on 30-31st January, 1989. Agreed Minutes were signed and it was agreed to expand and consolidate bilateral trade and economic relations between India and France. It was, inter-alia, agreed that there should be diversification of the import export basket, cooperation in projects in third countries, and, establishment of Joint Ventures between Indian and French enterprises.

Export Processing Zones in Orissa

1903. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had a proposal to set up some Export Processing Zones in Orissa;

(b) the number of Export Processing Zones that were originally planned for setting up in Orissa;

(c) the places identified for locations of these processing zones;

(d) the number of Export Processing Zones that have been actually set up so far; and

(e) the steps taken for setting up the remaining Export Processing Zones?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (c). Based on the Feasibility Study carried out by the Trade Development Authority at the instance of the Orissa Government, the State Government made a proposal for setting up an export processing zone in Orissa. The Feasibility Report preferred Bhuvaneshwar to Paradweep as site for the zone. It had not been possible for the Union Government to accept this proposal.

(d) There are six Free Trade/Export Processing Zones presently in operation. The establishment of a seventh zone at Visakhapatnam has been notified on 15.3.1989.

(e) Setting up of more Export Processing Zones in the country can be considered only when it becomes possible for the Government to find additional resources besides finding the necessity for more zones in the country.

Export of Iron Ore

1904. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the export of iron ore during the last three years;

(b) whether the export of iron ore has been declining;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to increase the export of iron ore?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) Exports of iron ore during the last three years have been as under;