

(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;

*(Qty: Lakh Tonnes)*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Exports</i>
1987-88	283
1988-89 (P)	333
1989-90 (P)	296 (upto Feb., 1990)

(P) = Provisional

(b) No, Sir

(c) Does not arise

(d) Some of the steps taken by MMTC to increase export of iron ore are market diversification, improvement in infrastructural facilities at major ports and tying up of export sales through long term agreements with major buyers of iron ore

#### **Performance of MMTC during Seventh Five Year Plan**

1905 SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements of the Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation (MMTC) in the matter of export earnings, both canalised and non-canalised items, yearwise during the Seventh Five Year Plan Period.

(b) whether Government have reviewed the performance of the Corporation during this period; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the review?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) Total value of exports by MMTC, of both canalised and non-canalised items, year-

wise during the Seventh Five Year Plan have been as under:

*(Value : Rs. Crores)*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Value of Exports</i>
1985-86	622.63
1986-87	711.69
1987-88	728.83
1988-89	872.62
1989-90 (Upto Feb., 90)	915.00

(b) and (c). Government has been periodically reviewing performance of MMTC during the Seventh Five Year Plan, and urging them to increase their exports, particularly, non-canalised exports. Non-canalised exports have increased from Rs. 19.74 crores in 1984-85 to Rs. 363 crores in 1989-90 (upto Feb. 90), while total exports have increased from Rs. 376 crores to Rs. 915 crores during the same period

#### **Assistance given Under Personal Accident Insurance Social Security Scheme in Orissa**

1906. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Personal Accident Insurance Social Security Scheme had been introduced by his Ministry for providing assistance to the victims from poor families;

(b) when the scheme was introduced in Orissa; and

(c) the details of the benefit given under the Scheme to the victims in Orissa during the last three years?