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		signed on 18.9.98 to boost the bilateral trade between the two countries.
7	Argentina	Meeting of The Indo-Argentine Joint Commission is proposed to be held in the first half of 1999.
	Cuba	(i) Discussions regarding joint venture Projects. Mining processing and marketing of Nickel were held. (ii) On Cuba's request, the Govt. of India has decided to export one lakh MT of non-basmati rice to Cuba in eight trenches of 12,500 MT each.
8	European Union	Bilateral exchanges as well as discussions held recently at New Delhi on 18-19 Nov., 98 with an EC delegation on a range of trade issues.
9	Belgium Cyprus France	Bilateral meetings were held for Trade and Investment which are identified and indicated in the agreed minutes.
10.	West Asia and North Africa	Practically all countries in this region, have shown interest in expanding their trade relations with India.
11.	South Asia	Trade talks with Pakistan held on 10th Nov., at New Delhi. Discussions with Sri Lankan delegation held on 16-17 Nov., 98 at New Delhi regarding the proposed bilateral free trade agreement. Talks held with Nepal on 17-20 Nov., 1998 at New Delhi regarding transit agreement. Third meeting of the IGG under SAPTA held in Kathmandu on 21-23 Nov., 98 to conclude the third round of SAPTA negotiations.
12.	Poland	Working consultations on Trade & Economic issues held on 22-23 June 1998 at Warsaw.
	Bulgaria	Indo-Bulgarian Joint Commission meeting held on 22-25 Sept., 98 at Sofia.

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	Czech Republic	Indo-Czech Joint Committee meeting held in Prague on Oct. 5-6, 98.
	Slovak Republic	Indo-Slovak Joint Committee meeting held in Bratislava on Oct. 7-8, 98.
	Croatia	Indo-Croatian Joint Committee meeting held on Nov. 16-17, 98 at New Delhi.

[Translation]

Mgro-Based Industry

2206. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADHAVBHAI JAVIA :
SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK :
SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up agro-based, forest-based and mineral based industry with central assistance in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, state-wise;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any programme to boost agro-based industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the programme is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) No specific central assistance is being provided by the Government for setting up of agro based, forest based and mineral based industry in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The measures taken by Government to encourage development of agro-based industries include exemption of certain agro-based products from excise duty, de-licensing of most of the agro-based industries like cotton textile, jute textile, sugar, edible oil and various food processing industries, inclusion of most of the food processing industries in the list of high priority industries eligible for automatic approval for foreign direct investment upto 51% foreign equity participation etc.

Millowances to Unemployed Graduates and Mbove/Diploma Holders

2207. DR. PRABHA THAKUR :
SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.5479 on July 24, 1998 and state :