

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:543

ANSWERED ON:26.07.2000

BILATERAL COOPERATION WITH EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the areas of science, technology, trade and other related fields in which India have bilateral collaboration with France and other countries of Europe;
- (b) whether new areas of mutual collaboration have been identified; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Bilateral cooperation between India and France in the areas of science, technology, trade and culture includes cooperation in the fields of scientific research, exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, collaboration in the launch of INSAT series satellites, telecommunications, information technology, mining, energy, agriculture including food processing, industrial applications of scientific research in chemicals and petrochemicals, etc. Bilateral agreements in the areas of science and technology, trade cooperation, tourism, air-services, avoidance of double taxation, promotion and protection of investments, agriculture, telecommunications, biotechnology and environment have also been entered into with a number of other countries in Europe.

(b)&(c) The mechanism of bilateral exchanges and consultations through periodic meetings of the Joint Commissions and Working Groups provide opportunities for identification and exploration of new areas of mutual cooperation. New areas of cooperation with various countries in Europe in the fields of information technology, biotechnology, non-conventional energy, power, ocean science, health, water management, disaster management and remote sensing have been identified.