

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1343
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2002
ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH JAPAN
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have a proposal to establish better economic relations with Japan;
- (b) if so, the various proposals under the consideration of the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether one of the proposal was to set up an institution of Japanese studies in the State of Karnataka;
- (d) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and
- (e) the details of the economic cooperation for the global partnership proposed to be established between the two countries?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL)

(a & b): Japan is Indian's largest bilateral aid partner and also a leading trade and investment partner. The lifting of the economic sanctions in October, 2001 by Japan and subsequent visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to Japan has given an impetus to closer economic relations. A high level delegation from Japan is scheduled to hold Policy Dialogue with Government of India during March 12-17, 2002 to work out future course of economic cooperation.

(c & d): An Eminent Persons' Group, set up between the two countries has proposed to establish India-Japan Centres in Bangalore and Delhi areas, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan. The two Governments are presently studying the proposal.

(e): One of the major objectives of Prime Minister's visit to Japan in December, 2001 was to concretise the Global Partnership for the 21st Century that was agreed to during Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori's visit to India in August 2000. This included, inter-alia, establishing better economic relations with Japan, both at the level of Government and Industry, as also encouraging greater Japanese interest and awareness of opportunities for investment and business in India.