GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1985
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2005
INDO- FRENCH TIES
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation from France visited India in October to explore trade and investment opportunities in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether both the countries have agreed to improve the trade;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether ten of the 250 companies doing business with India have only set up their office in India; and

(f) if so the steps taken by the Government to pursue with the French business men to set up new offices and to increase their investment in small and medium sized industries in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a & b) A delegation, led by Mr. Jean Jack Queyranne, President of the Rhone-Alps Regional Council, comprising, among others, businessmen, officials, educationists, etc., visited India from 22nd to 29th October 2005 to discuss, inter-alia, development of trade and economic relations between India and the Rhone-Alps region.

(c) to (f) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to enhance bilateral trade with the countries of Europe including France. The steps taken by the Government in this regard include encouraging and facilitating direct business level contacts, participation in trade promotion activities, exchange of delegations, disseminating trade related information through apex trade and industry organizations and other relevant bodies, etc. As per available information, from the Rhone Alps region of France, 250 companies are doing business with India and 10 have their offices located in India. The Enterprise Rhone-Alpes International (ERAI) has set up an Office in New Delhi to ensure that other companies, specially small and medium sized ones, are able to get assistance to proceed with activities relating to trade and investment.