

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:309
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2008
VISIT OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENT
Nayak Shri Ananta

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the French President has recently visited India; and
- (b) if so, the details of the issues discussed and agreements signed during the said visit?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a)-(b) Yes. His Excellency Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy, President of France paid a State visit to India from 25 to 26 January 2008 for the India-France Summit. He was also the Chief Guest at the Republic Day Celebrations. During the visit, Prime Minister and President Sarkozy held bilateral talks on wide-ranging issues of bilateral, regional and global concerns. A Joint Statement and a Joint Declaration between India and France on the Fight against Global Warming were issued (enclosed as annexure I and annexure II respectively). In addition, five bilateral Agreements/MoUs for cooperation in the fields of Mutual Protection of Classified Information in the field of Defence, Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners, India's participation in the Jules Horowitz advanced research and test reactor, Development Cooperation and cooperation in the field of Neuro Science were signed (enclosed as annexure III).

ANNEXURE I

REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 309 REGARDING 'VISIT OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENT' FOR ANSWER ON 27.02.2008

India-France Joint Statement issued on the occasion of the Visit of H.E. Mr Nicolas SARKOZY, President of the Republic of France, to India, on 25 & 26 January 2008 25/01/2008 President Nicolas Sarkozy's State visit to India and his presence as the Chief Guest at the Republic Day commemorations reflects the shared commitment of both India and France to provide fresh impetus to their strategic partnership. India and France are democracies which share common values of freedom, human rights, secularism, rule of law, tolerance and believe in multilateralism in the international political and financial architecture as the means to tackle global challenges effectively. These human values are at the core of their enhanced cooperation and strategic partnership.

I. Strategic Partnership:

India and France hold convergent views on major regional and international issues. Both countries are committed to international peace & security, nuclear non-proliferation and counter terrorism.

France supports India's inclusion as a permanent member of Security Council, thus making the UN more relevant to the needs of the 21st century and enabling India to play its role in world affairs. France also believes the G-8 needs to be expanded over time to G-13 including India.

Both countries are acutely aware of the serious dangers posed by extremism and terrorism worldwide. In order to face this common threat, both countries agreed to strengthen their cooperation against international terrorism through, inter-alia, increased operational contacts.

The two countries agree on the importance of an early, balanced and comprehensive outcome of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations with focus on the development dimension. India and France are committed to environmental protection and in this context have issued a separate joint declaration. To enhance their strategic dialogue, both countries will hold regular consultations between high ranking officials of their respective Foreign Ministries on issues of mutual interest.

II Bilateral Relations

In line with the excellent bilateral relations that already exist between the two countries, it was agreed to intensify the exchange of high-level visits in various areas of interaction. Both countries will consolidate their relationship in the field of defence by increasing by increasing the range, level and frequency of their military joint-operations and cooperation. In this regard, it was agreed to deepen further their joint programmes and prospects in defence industry, conduct joint research and facilitate transfer of technology in this vital area. Both Sides welcomed the signing of the Agreement for the Protection of Classified Information and Security. Both Sides decided to initiate detailed discussion on Status of Forces Agreement. Both countries agreed to maintain the momentum of cooperation in the Space Sector.

Convinced that strong economic ties can be further built in a spirit of social and environmental responsibility, India and France are eager to maintain the fast rising trend of their trade and the smart pace of their business to business relations. Both countries aimed to work towards achieving an ambitious target of reaching 12 billion euro bilateral trade by 2012 and significantly stepping up investments. Acknowledging the considerable potential for bilateral trade, investment and services, the two Sides noted the importance of improving market access. The two Sides agreed to continue encouraging cooperation between their companies,

especially the Small, Medium and Micro enterprises. They also agreed to enhance their engagement in consular matters including facilitation of visas for businessmen, professionals and interns. They would also endeavour to foster bilateral consultations regarding respective social security systems so that mutually beneficial arrangements for the citizens of both countries operating in France and India could be developed. The two Sides welcomed the Agreement concluded concerning the establishment of the Agence Française de Développement (AFD – French Development Agency) in India. It was noted that France plans to support projects to address, inter alia, global challenges, in particular, climate change adaptation and mitigation. India and France have signed an agreement for the transfer of sentenced persons. The Sides paid tribute to the contribution of the Indo-French Forum to further bilateral links. They welcomed the idea of creation of an Indo-French Foundation to foster relations between economic partners and support projects in the fields of science, education and culture.

III. Development of Civil Nuclear Cooperation

France and India have decided to give a new impetus to their cooperation for the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes as an expression of their strategic partnership. Both Sides recognize that as a reliable source of sustainable and non-polluting energy, it could make a significant contribution to meeting the global challenge of achieving energy security, sustainable development, economic growth and limiting climate change. As responsible states with advanced nuclear technologies, including in the nuclear fuel cycle, France and India are interested to promote nuclear energy with the highest standards of safety and security and in accordance with their respective nuclear policies and international obligations. France and India share common concerns and objectives in the field of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery including in view of possible linkages to terrorism. In this regard, France appreciates India's long standing and continuing contributions to international non-proliferation. Building on their on-going decades-old cooperation in the fields of fundamental and applied research, and nuclear safety, it was agreed to broaden and boost this partnership. To this end, France and India have finalized negotiation in regard to reaching a bilateral agreement for civil nuclear cooperation. This agreement will form the basis of wide ranging bilateral cooperation from basic and applied research to full civil nuclear cooperation including reactors, fuel supply and management. To this end, both Sides look forward to the finalization of India specific safeguards agreement with the IAEA and the adjustment of international civil nuclear cooperation framework. France expressed its support for the same. Another agreement has been signed today in the field of nuclear research, which is a key for preparing for the future. It relates to the participation of the Indian Department of Atomic Energy in the research project, the Jules Horowitz Reactor, which will be built by the Commissariat à l'Énergie atomique (French Atomic Energy Commission) at Cadarache, France. An MOU that establishes cooperation between the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research on the one hand, and the Grand Accélérateur National d'Ions Lourds (GANIL), on the other hand, on the use of Spiral 2 high intensity beam production system at Caen, France will be signed in Mumbai. India and France also agreed to intensify exchanges between the scientists of both countries in the nuclear field; establish structures for training and undertake nuclear safety research. In addition, the existing dialogue between respective nuclear safety authorities will also be reinforced especially the context of future industrial cooperation. At the industrial and commercial levels, France and India agreed to work towards raising the level of bilateral cooperation guided by their deep mutual trust and the high technological capabilities of the two countries.

IV. People to People Contacts

India and France agreed to intensify cooperation in the fields of education, culture, tourism & scientific research. It was agreed that efforts will be made for early establishment of an Indian Cultural Centre in Paris and that France will facilitate this task. The two Sides decided to promote cooperation in the field of education, enhance linkages between their respective educational systems as also foster exchange of students. This, along with creation of joint international laboratories, cooperation on technologies for water management and the establishment of an Indo-French University Consortium, is expected to result in all round intensification of ties. To promote such wide ranging people-to-people contacts, both countries agreed to the reciprocal opening of Consulates in each other's territory and, in this context, welcomed the opening by France of two new Consulates in India, in Kolkata and Bangalore, in 2008.

V. EU-India

Both countries reiterated the importance of the strategic partnership between India and the European Union. France is due to take over the Presidency of the EU beginning July 2008. During the French Presidency, efforts will be undertaken to enhance ties through the mechanism of the Joint India-EU Action Plan. Both Sides expressed their commitment for an early and mutually beneficial conclusion of the negotiations for India-EU Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement. President Sarkozy extended an invitation to the Prime Minister of India to pay an official visit to France in 2008 on the occasion of EU-India summit. Prime Minister of India accepted the invitation in principle.

ANNEXURE II

REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 309 REGARDING 'VISIT OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENT' FOR ANSWER ON 27.02.2008 Joint Declaration of France and India on the fight against Global warming 25/01/2008 I- France and India, aware of the impact of climate change on the survival and development of humanity, the importance and urgency of the fight against climate change and the implementation of sustainable development, desirous of acting closely and concertedly to fight global warming and to avert its potential consequences for the survival and development of humanity, have decided to unite their efforts to rise adequately to this major challenge. They recall the recent report published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which provides the scientific evidence of the urgency to address climate change. Their efforts form part of the agenda outlined in the Bali Action Plan adopted on 15th December 2007 during the 13th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 3rd session of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, in keeping with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities that they have accepted. They recall their commitments to the provisions and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol. They are pleased to note the progress made in Bali with regard to operationalisation of the "Adaptation Fund" and trust that the secretariat services provided in the interim period of three years by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) would be efficient, cost-effective, and timely.

II- France and India reinforce their exchanges in the field of climate change policies, with timely cooperation and exchange of views on international negotiations on climate change. In this regard, they are committed to work towards the swift achievement of a consensus by 2009 on long term cooperative action in the fight against climate change now, up-to and beyond 2012. They reaffirm that the goal of

the international community in the face of climate change must be the stabilization of atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases to a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system as per the objective of the UNFCCC. They also agreed that long-term convergence of per capita emissions of developing countries and developed countries is an important principle that should be seriously considered in context of the international climate change negotiations. They shall jointly endeavour to achieve this, particularly by working actively and constructively within the framework of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol.

III- France and India commit themselves to strengthening cooperation on climate change and other environmental problems (biodiversity, water resources, desertification, natural calamities, forests, waste management, fight against pollutions), as well as to the promotion of technology R&D, including collaborative R&D, innovation, dissemination, application and transfer to developing countries. They further strengthen their cooperation in this area in order to increase their adaptation capacities by acting in the following fields:

- 1-Modelling climate change;
 - 2- Study of vulnerability arising from climate change and its effects;
 - 3- Improvement of facilities for the projection of climate change and its consequences;
 - 4- Research and development of technologies and means for adapting to climate change;
- They have decided to explore the possibilities of cooperation with third countries for the benefit of LDCs.

IV- France and India emphasize on the importance of the effort aiming at moderating carbon intensity while maintaining economic growth, and devote themselves to a pragmatic promotion of cooperation in the area of technology research & development, application and transfer to developing countries to fight against climate change, especially regarding energy-saving, improving energy efficiency and long-lasting energy infrastructure, civilian nuclear energy, renewable energy, and other low-carbon technologies, and build an environment-friendly economy.

V- They encourage the creation of joint initiatives in order to disseminate innovative technologies for fighting climate change. They also encourage their respective industries and financial institutions to be further involved in joint projects for sustainable development and fighting climate change.

VI- They underline the importance of market mechanisms for financing the fight against climate change, along with public financing. They encourage the pursuit and intensification of projects undertaken in the framework of "Clean Development Mechanisms" (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol, enabling the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

VII- They recognize the importance of reducing emissions from deforestation by working towards conservation and sustainable management of forests, afforestation, and reforestation.

VIII- Further, with a view to reinforcing their cooperation, France and India have decided to build a specific partnership, in the framework of their global strategic partnership, for fighting against climate change in order to reconcile, in their bilateral exchanges, the legitimate quest for a mutually beneficial economic growth, with environment-friendly measures, especially the fight against climate change.

In this spirit, they have agreed to the following measures and orientations:

France and India have decided to create a Franco-Indian working group on the environment dealing namely with clean technology transfers and their financing. This working group, which will be composed of representatives of the two States but also those from civil society (companies, NGOs), to identify cooperative action for swift implementation, particularly in the following areas:

- # energy efficiency and energy-saving;
- # renewable energies;
- # hydrogen and fuel cells;
- # clean coal;
- # civilian nuclear energy, in conformity with the terms of the Joint Statement adopted this day;
- # conservation and sustainable management of forests, afforestation and reforestation, and soil management;
- # biodiversity;
- # health and environment.

To this end, France and India encourage the participation of public and private players, and local authorities for innovative technological cooperation projects for the fight against climate change, including those involving its financing, bringing concrete responses in the aforementioned areas.

France and India commit themselves to the exploration of cooperative projects in different areas such as the iron and steel industry, long-lasting energy infrastructure (essentially hydroelectric dams, thermal power stations and networks) but also urban development, energy-efficient transports (high-speed trains, Metro, trams). The vast distribution of individual lighting through solar bulbs could also be considered.

France and India recognise the ongoing fruitful cooperation between the Agence del 'Environnement et de la MaÃ@trise de l'Energie (ADEME-Environment and Energy Control Agency) and the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, India. This cooperation will promote energy efficiency measures in India.

The two Parties will strengthen their partnership particularly in areas like education, and promote exchange and training of personnel. The Parties would take steps to encourage cooperation between their major research establishments and laboratories as well as exchanges between their researchers and experts. Further, they recall the utmost importance that they attach to their civilian nuclear cooperation, which will enable both countries to reconcile their desire for economic development with respect for the environment. New Delhi 25th January 2008

ANNEXURE III

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LIST OF THE AGREEMENTS/MOUs SIGNED DURING THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FRANCE 25 JANUARY 2008

S.No. FULL NAME OF THE AGREEMENT / MOU

1. Agreement on Mutual Protection of Classified Information in the field of Defence MOD, India and French Ministry of Defence

2. Agreement between India and France on Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners MHA, India and French Interior Ministry
3. Agreement between Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique (CEA), France and DAE, India for construction and operation of Jules Horowitz (JH) Reactor DAE, India and CEA, France
- 4 . Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of India on India-France Development Cooperation Through AFD DEA,India and AFD , France
5. MOU on an International Associated Laboratory in the field of Neuro Science INSERM and University of Paris VII and National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), India under the administrative control of Department of Biotechnology.