

(c) All out efforts are being made to complete the work within the target date of December, 1999.

[*Translation*]

Indo-French Joint Naval Exercise

1297. SHRI TEJVEER SINGH:
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to undertake joint naval exercise by India and France in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) During the recent visit of Raksha Mantri to France from January 11-14, 1999 both countries agreed that cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries will be based upon jointly agreed programmes including joint exercises. No dates have been finalised as yet for joint exercises between the navies of the two countries.

[*English*]

Duty Free Shop at Ahmedabad Airport

1298. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has decided to open duty free shop of international standard at Ahmedabad airport; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For this purpose, tenders have been called and the duty free shop at Ahmedabad airport is likely to be opened in the third quarter of 1999.

Programmes on Delhi's Historical Sites

1299. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan shown any programme during 1997, 1998 and 1999 on Delhi's historical sites; and

(b) if so, the names, date and time at which they were telecast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Foreign Investment in F.P.I.

1300. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have started any new programme to invite foreign investment in Food Processing Industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Government has laid down a liberal policy framework for promotion of foreign investment in food processing sector. Most of the items have been delicensed and are eligible for automatic foreign investment upto 51% of equity. Even for foreign investment beyond 51%, the Foreign Investment Promotion Board considers those cases liberally.

To promote foreign investment in food processing industries, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance under its Plan schemes for preparation of promotional literature, supports participation in international events such as Promotional Missions, Trade Fairs etc. and undertakes a variety of other measures to attract investment.

[*English*]

Ahmedabad Airport

1301. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: