

(b) This was a goodwill visit and no agreement was signed during the visit.

(c) Defence supplies, cooperation in defence research and production are part of the multi-faceted ongoing defence cooperation between India and South Africa.

**Indo-China Agreement on C.B.Ms**

1367. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
SHRI A.C. JOS:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in November, 1996 China and India had signed an agreement on CBMs in the military field along the line of Actual Control on the Sino-India border;

(b) if so, the extent to which these agreements have been implemented and eased the tension; and

(c) the total troop reduced by both sides along the Indo-China border so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Agreement on CBMs is a step forward in improving relations with China and maintaining peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control.

(c) While Article III of the Agreement includes provision for reduction/limitation of troops of the two countries along the LAC, this cannot be implemented till an understanding is reached on the LAC clarification.

**Agreement between India and France**

1368. SHRI MADAN PATIL:  
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:  
SHRI BAMPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and France had signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Co-operation in Railways during recent visit of French Transport Minister;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether France has agreed to help India on development of railways;

(d) if so, whether both the countries have agreed to meet again in February 1999 to discuss further prospects of Railway Co-operation between the two countries; and

(e) if so, the extent to which the French Minister has agreed to help India on the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (e) No, Sir. No Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Co-operation in Railways was signed. However, a Declaration of Intent for Co-operation in the Rail Sector between India and France was signed on February 1, 1999. Activities to be undertaken under this include:—

- (i) Exchange of information on their policies, laws and regulations in this field;
- (ii) Exchange programme for experts and trainees;
- (iii) Jointly organising symposiums, seminars, conferences on themes of common interest;
- (iv) All other forms of mutual co-operation.

The main themes to be covered by this proposed co-operation programme will be as follows:—

- (i) Increasing the capacity of railway lines
- (ii) Safety measures
- (iii) Track maintenance, modernisation including bridge rehabilitation programme
- (iv) Signalling Telecommunications
- (v) Electrification
- (vi) Electric and Diesel rolling stock
- (vii) Traction rolling stock
- (viii) Information technology
- (ix) Training
- (x) Any other area decided by mutual consent.