

places of tourist interests and New Delhi ?

MR. SPEAKER : This question has been answered many times. There is nothing more in this question. It would be an unnecessary waste of time of the House.

Next question,

Meeting of Indo-French Joint Business Council in Delhi.

*390. **DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :**

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-French Joint Business Council has met recently in Delhi ;

(b) if so, the decisions taken at the meeting ; and

(c) effects thereof on Indo-French Trade ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Indo-French Joint Business Council is composed exclusively of the business representatives of the two countries. According to the Joint Statement adopted after the meeting held in Delhi on 30th January 1984, there was considerable scope for enlarging the volume and diversifying the pattern of bilateral trade, industrial collaborations involving technology as also investment and joint collaboration in third country projects.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Sir my question was very specific,

namely, whether Indo-French Joint Business Council has met recently in Delhi ; if so, the decisions taken at the meeting ; and effects thereof on Indo-French Trade. The question is small, and the information is also very small.

MR. SPEAKER : Matching one ?

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Not matching ?

I wanted detailed information, because our relations with France are very good. The Indo-French Joint Business Council is composed exclusively of the business representatives of the two countries. What is the total quantum of Indo-French trade at present on Government to Government basis and on private business management to private business management basis ? As a result of the meeting held in Delhi on 30th January, 1984, there was a Indo-French Joint Business Council press report, *Hindustan Times* quoted, and according to that they were going to have a trade of one thousand million, and their representatives were suspecting something may be a bottleneck in our industrial policy with regard to Indo-French collaboration. Based on this, I want to know the substances in which this Joint Council has envisaged trade between private business and private concerns, which will be to the extent of \$ 1,000 million ?

Secondly, what are the detailed items from India which this Joint Council has decided to export, and what are the fields in which French will export to India ?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR : As I have already stated, a 33 - member delegation from France visited India between 29th January and 5th February. A meeting held on 30th January, 1984. This Joint Business Council also agreed that efforts should be made to increase the volume, as has been said by the Hon. Member, of trade between the two countries in a way that the balance between imports and exports is also

maintained. They have also considered and agreed that arrangements can be worked out for large-scale industrial collaboration involving technology and investment.

They have identified a number of areas also. I can give some instances, e. g. electronics and components, oil refining equipment, telecommunications, high speed gear hobbing machines, ripple control equipment, micro meters, audio-magnetic tapes, glass lined equipment material, handling and conveying equipment etc. Food processing is also there. These are the main items they have discussed and identified.

One more point my friend asked about, is trade between the two countries, i. e. Government to Government, and private trade. We do not have separate figures with us. I can say that for 1980-81, exports were for Rs. 146.94 crores, as against imports for Rs. 288.30 crores. Similarly, in 1983-84, the exports were for Rs. 53.84 crores and imports were for Rs. 84.66 crores, upto September.

He had also asked about the number of projects that we have, in collaboration with the French Government. This figure is also with us. I can give them later on.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
According to the information of the Minister, the increase to the level of \$ 51,000 million is both in respect of trade with Government, and with private business managements. Now the figures which he has given are : exports Rs. 146 crores, and imports Rs. 220 crores. So, the trade gap is much more.

The leader of the team, Mr. Roger Chalyon Dmersey apprehended that due to this industrial policy, there is some bottleneck for industrial collaboration. What is the explanation of the Government therefor ?

Secondly, he has already elaborated in his reply, about industrial collabora-

tion, but he has not said what are the materials which India wants to export, to double the exports from India, and particularly the fields India and France have decided for collaboration, and the projects taken up during discussions in the third meeting.

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR :
The first point that the Hon. Member made was that there were some difficulties on our side, which is not a fact. We have not received any complaints from the French side. I will give the facts which will bear this out. In 1983, we have cleared about 673 collaborations. Amongst them 40 are with the French. In one year, we have done this. If there had been some difficulties, these figures could not have been achieved by now. So this is not a fact. Anyhow, if there is a little difficulty here and there, we are trying to take it up and see that the things should move easier. The main export items to France generally are clothing, textile, pulses, precious and semi-precious stones, leather and leather goods. We are also trying to develop our furniture industry with the French people.

Stoppage of Purchase of Cotton in Gujarat etc. by Cotton Corporation of India.

*391, **SHRI AMAR SINGH RATHAWA† :**

SHRI NAVIN RAVANI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Cotton Corporation of India has stopped purchase of Cotton in Gujarat and in other parts of the country ;

(b) if so the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the farmers of Gujarat are facing great hardship to dispose of their products ; and