

Relations with Japan

1164 SHRI MANJAY LAL:
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen further the cultural, commercial and technological relations with Japan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA).

India has sought to strengthen and deepen bilateral relations with Japan through exchange of high level visits imparting momentum to commercial technological and cultural relations with Japan.

The Prime Minister's visit to Japan in June 1992, in particular, generated an excellent atmosphere for expanding commercial and cultural relations. Several ministerial visits have since taken place from both sides. Japanese Ministry of Industry and Trade (MITI) has invited an Indian delegation for a policy dialogue and the meeting is likely to take place later this year.

Japanese Government, business and industry are appreciative of Indian economic liberalisation set in motion in the recent years.

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is the nodal point for cultural relations and it arranges regular visits performing artists and other cultural representatives. The Japanese Cultural Centre located in New Delhi similarly promotes cultural activities.

In the field of science and technology, India has entered into an agreement with

Japan in 1985, as envisaged in that agreement, Indian scientific institutions such as Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and Indian National Science Academy, have signed Memorandum of Understanding and detailed agreements with their counterpart institutions in Japan, for exchange of information on technological developments and scientific research and also for exchange of visits by scientists.

[English]

Thermal Power Stations

1165. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO. VADDE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have given final clearance to the agreements reached between State electricity boards and private entrepreneurs/foreign companies in the establishment of Thermal Power Stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the salient features like guarantee for supply of coal and transport facilities envisaged in those agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYANAIDU): (a) and (b). Selection of a private party for developing a project, award of a project, the commercial agreements for sale of power etc., are matters entirely within the competence of the State Electricity Board and the State Government concerned.

(c) The private power companies can enter into legally enforceable agreements with Central fuel supply and fuel transport agencies.