

(c) whether the Union Government have decided to release and/or develop some of the areas land of;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the names of such developers?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (e) Land admeasuring approximately 5375 acres owned by Salt Department at Malvani, Dahisar, Goregaon in the western suburban of Mumbai, Kanjur, Bhandup, Mulund, Chembur, Ghatkopar, Trombay in the north eastern suburban of Mumbai and Wadala, Matunga in Mumbai city limits have been ordered for transfer to the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment with a view to developing it for socio-economically useful purposes.

#### **Import of Coffee by Indonesia**

2244. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coffee Board had requested the Union Government for not importing Robasta Coffee from Indonesia; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHIR RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Indian Overseas Bank**

2245. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Overseas Bank has started 'Any Branch Banking' service in Delhi recently under which the account holders can operate their accounts from any branch of the Overseas Bank located in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether other public sector banks also propose to start such service; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Any Branch Banking Service is available in 20 branches of Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) in Delhi.

(b) Under the system, those customers desirous of availing the facility are, on their re uest, issued a card.

The following types of services are extended under the system.

1. Savings Bank and individual Current Deposit holders are eligible to avail this facility for self transactions.
2. Cash withdrawal, cash deposit, balance enquiry and details of last 5 transactions are the services presently offered.
3. The ceiling for cash transaction is Rs.25,000/-.
4. The messages transmitted through Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) lines are encrypted ensuring security.
5. The card issued to the customer can also be used at ATM centre (presently at Greater Kailash II).

(c) and (d) It is for the respective banks to take a decision on whether they would like to start such services.

[English]

#### **Inv. stment by France**

2246. SHRI MAGANTI VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether France has agreed to invest in India on a large scale;

(b) if so, the sectors on which agreement with France has been reached;

(c) whether any French delegation visited India and signed the number of agreements for investment in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Investment from France have risen substantially in the last tow years, starting from Rs.193.3 crores in 1991 they reached over 1671.7 cores in 1996. During the period 1991-1997 total investment approvals worth Rs.3073.25 crores were accorded to the French firms which accounted for more than 2% of the total FDI approvals.

The sectors attracting French investment in India are Chemicals, power, oil refining, electrical, Fuels, Telecommunications, industrial machinery, Metallurgical industries, transport, and glass.

(c) and (d) French Minister of State for Foreign trade Mr. Jacques Dondeux led a delegation to participate in the 9th Session of the Indo-French Joint Committee held in New Delhi on 23-24 November, 1998.

Two Protocols were signed:

- (I) A Financial Protocol was signed on 23.11.98. The Financial Protocol Provides French aid to the tune

of FF 68.8 million (Rs.48.16 crores) in the areas of water supply, mining etc.

- (II) A Protocol of Intent was signed on November 24, 1998. The Protocol aims to encourage the growth of investments and joint ventures in industrial and technological sectors between Indian and French firms with special emphasis on small and medium enterprises.

[Translation]

#### Import of Agro and Non-Agro Products

2247. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of agro and non-agro products imported in the country during the last one year alongwith the names thereof; and

(b) the prices of the imported products are comparatively less/more than the present market prices?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The total imports of farm and non-farm goods during 1997-98 were valued at Rs.6645.48 crores and Rs.151553.52 crores respectively (Source DGCI&S, Calcutta). The farm goods imported include wheat, cereal preparations, pulses, milk and cream, cashewnuts, fruits and nuts, spices, sugar, oilseeds, vegetable oils, natural rubber, raw jute and cotton raw and waste. Non-farm goods imported include synthetic rubber, pulp and paper waste, silk, synthetic and regenerated fibers, textile yarn and fabric, raw hides and skins, leather, fertilizer, unmanufactured, sulphur and unroasted iron pyrites, ores and metal scrap, coal coke and briquettes, petroleum crude and products, essential oils and cosmetic preparations, organic and inorganic chemicals, medicinal and pharmaceutical products, manufactured fertilizers, artificial resins and plastic materials, chemical materials and products, newsprint, paper board and manufactures, cement, gold and silver, precious and semi precious stones, iron and steel, non ferrous metals, manufacturers of metals, machinery, machine tools, electrical machinery, electronic goods, computer software and transport equipment.

(b) It is not possible to accurately compare the prices prevailing in the international markets and in the domestic markets on account of the different varieties and specifications of items traded, variations in grading and packaging.

[English]

#### Sino-India Trade

2248. DR RAVI MALLU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 14.2 percent growth was registered in Sino-India trade during the first half of the current year;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to increase this growth further;

(c) if so, whether any target has been fixed in this regard; and

(d) if so, to what extent the Sino-India trade is likely to be improved further?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEDGE) : (a) No, Sir. The total volume of Indo-China bilateral trade has grown from R.2,85,828.19 lakhs in January-June, 1997 to Rs.3,74338.65 lakhs during January-June, 1998, according to statistics available from DGCI&S, Calcutta, showing an increase of 2.75% in the first half of 1998.

(b) to (d) Efforts are constantly being made to increase the level of bilateral trade for reaching the targets set in this regard through measures like holding meetings at the Government and business levels through high level delegations, increased participation in each other country's trade fairs and exhibitions to increase awareness of each other's capabilities, identification of items, technologies and sectors having scope for furthering exports, and by facilitating increased interaction between the business communities of the two countries. During the visit of the Chinese President Jiang Zemin to India in 1996, India and China agreed to fix a target of US \$ 10 billion of trade volume to be achieved by the year 2000.

[Translation]

#### Drawbacks of Banking Service Recruitment Boards

2249. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in "Jansatta" dated September 11, 1998 captioned "Safed Haathi Ban Gaye Hain Banking Seva Bharti Board";

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove the drawbacks of Banking Service Recruitment Boards; and

(d) the changes proposed to be made in rules in future to make the recruitment procedure simple and impartial?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE)(SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The income by way of fee charged by the Banking Service Recruitment Boards from the candidates appearing for various examinations is not sufficient to offset the expenditure incurred on conducting examinations and hence there is a deficit in the income and expenditure. Further, in the case of candidate belonging to SC/ST no examination fee is charged.