

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1956

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2006

VISIT OF FRENCH PRESIDENT

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Ramadass Prof. M;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao;Yadav Shri Kailash Nath Singh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- a. whether the French President visited India recently;
- b. if so, the details of discussions held on the occasion;
- c. the outcome thereof;
- d. whether any agreements have been signed between the two countries;
- e. If so, the details thereof; and
- f. The benefits likely to be accrued to India as a result thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

a) Yes, Sir. The President of France, Mr. Jacques CHIRAC visited India from February 19-21, 2006.

b&c) The discussions held on the occasion covered a wide range of areas of bilateral cooperation including economic and commercial links, cooperation in the fields of defence, civil nuclear energy, space, civil aviation and energy. Multilateral issues relating to UN Reforms and financing of development were also discussed. This would promote greater cooperation between India and France in the areas of their mutual interest.

d-f) Yes Sir. Several Agreements and MoUs reflecting the diverse range of Indo-French collaboration were signed during the visit.

These include an Agreement on defence cooperation and an MoU on Tourism cooperation. The agreement on defence cooperation would promote cooperation in defence and military fields, defence industry, production, research and development and procurement of defence material.

The MoU on tourism cooperation aims to facilitate growth in tourist arrivals, promote human resource development in tourism and travel related industries and the development of sustainable tourism.

An agreement was signed by ANTRIX (the commercial arm of ISRO) with EADS Astrium to jointly build a satellite for Eutelsat. This is an acknowledgement of Antrix's technological and export capabilities and should help its growth and development further.

Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad signed an MoA with the ESSEC Business School Paris. This would reinforce their existing partnership and extend it to other activities through exchange of students and research & faculty collaboration.

A Declaration of Cooperation was signed between BEE (Bureau of Energy Efficiency), Ministry of Power and ADEME (the Environment & Energy Management Agency of France) for cooperation in the field of energy efficiency and energy conservation. The Cooperation is intended to foster energy efficiency in the country, including lower energy costs for the consumers.

An agreement between Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Sciences Po, Paris was signed to establish an Indian Economy Chair at Sciences Po. The Indian Economy chair would help in generating greater awareness about the contemporary Indian economy among French students at the prestigious Sciences Po institution.

Besides the above, a Declaration on the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes was signed. The Declaration would facilitate future cooperation with France in the field of civil nuclear energy.

A Statement of Intent on Cooperation between Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India and Ministry of Economy, Finance & Industry of the French Republic on Cooperation between Enterprises was also signed. Under the Statement of Intent both countries have agreed to strengthen and promote bilateral cooperation in the areas of industry, trade, science, technology, finance and investment between Indian and French enterprises, particularly SMEs.

A purchase contract for 43 Airbus aircraft was signed by Indian Airlines and Airbus.