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20.	West Bengal	Tea, Spices, Exercise books, Matches and Iodised Salt (in some areas) being distributed.	14.1.99
21.	A & N Islands	FPSs selling wide range of other commodities.	31.3.97
22.	D & N Haveli	Iodised Salt, Pulses, Match Boxes and Tea being distributed.	31.3.97
23.	Lakshadweep	Iodised Salt, Text Books, Soaps, Tea, Matches, Pulses being distributed.	31.3.97

#### **Joint Ministerial Commission with Israel**

2074. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:  
SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:  
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:  
SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering a proposal to set up a Joint Ministerial Commission with Israel;
- (b) if so, the details of the subjects in which cooperation is sought; and
- (c) the response received from the Israeli authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) During the visit of External Affairs Minister to Israel in July 2000, it was agreed to establish a Joint Ministerial Commission, the details of which are to be worked out.

#### **Indo-European Union summit at Lisbon**

2075. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the major achievements of the two day Indo-European Union Summit led by the Hon'ble Prime Minister held at Lisbon, recently; and
- (b) the specific areas of trade and investment for which assurance, if any, were received or understanding was reached with different members of the European Union during the tour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The India-EU Summit held in Lisbon on June 28, 2000 enabled both sides to review bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual concern. A major step forward was the agreement to forge a new strategic partnership in the 21st century founded on shared values and aspirations and characterised by enhanced and multifaceted cooperation. The India-EU Summit Declaration provides a blueprint for upgrading the relationship to a qualitatively higher level. An Agenda for Action which encompasses joint initiatives in the political, commercial and economic fields was also agreed upon. The Declaration commits India and the European Union to cooperate to prevent and combat terrorism and to meet the challenges arising from it in the regional and international context. India and the EU will also strive together for a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

(c) India and the EU have agreed that it is essential to raise the level of bilateral trade and investment so that its full potential can be realised. The Summit Declaration makes specific reference to bilateral consultations on anticipated regulatory and other measures affecting the flow of trade with a view to resolving problems at an early stage. The EU has agreed to encourage larger flow of Foreign Direct Investment, especially in the infrastructure sector. It was agreed that a Joint working Group on Information Technology and Research and Development would also be set up.

**MusharraPs statement about no compromise on defence**

2076. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "No compromise on defence, says Musharraf in the Hindustan Times dated 24th June, 2000;

(b) if so, whether Government are also aware about Pakistan's statement that India aspired to dominate not only the Arabian sea but also the Indian ocean; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?