

French investment; third country project; issues relating to multi fibre arrangement and liberalisation of trade and French collaboration in the areas of technology.

(d) The Indo-French trade has witnessed considerable growth during the last four years. The total turnover which was Rs. 305.4 crores during 1977-78 has increased to Rs. 422.64 crores during 1980-81.

209. [Transferred to the 26th February, 1982]

Cost of Mirage Aircraft

210. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that India has obtained cost cut by 10 per cent in respect of mirage deal;

(b) when the first mirage aircraft is likely to be supplied to India;

(c) what would be the cost of each aircraft; and

(d) what is the total number of mirage aircrafts that will be supplied to India and by what time?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (d) Negotiations with the French Companies for the supply of Mirage-2000 aircraft are still in progress.

Review of the current economic situation

211. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that review of the current economic situation in the country showed that there was definite improvement in the country's economy;

(b) if so, whether according to this review there was a marked improvement in all the spheres, including industrial and agricultural production and monetary growth;

(c) whether the expected decline in resources would be greater than as anticipated earlier;

(d) whether Government are confident that industrial production will go up by 8 per cent;

(e) what steps Government propose to take to improve the economy further; and

(f) whether Government have also taken a decision to impound the D.A. of the Government employees and also wage freeze to strengthen the economy?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) There has been a significant improvement in the economic situation during 1981-82. The detailed review of the economic policies will be presented in the Economic Survey 1981-82 and the Budget for 1982-83.

(f) There is a proposal to deposit only the arrears of Dearness Allowance into the Provident Fund accounts of the employees. There is no proposal under consideration regarding wage freeze.

Supply of French Mirage Aircraft to India

212. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 74 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th November, 1981 and state:

(a) whether India and France have since finally signed on agreement for the supply of French Mirage aircraft to India;

(b) if so, what are the main features of the agreement;

(c) whether the agreement has given a greater morale boosting to the Indian Air Force;

(d) to what extent the Indian Air Force is likely to meet the Pakistan's threat after the latter acquires the F-16 planes from U.S.A.; and