

term. India-Pakistan Joint Working Group between Indian Coast Guard and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) met at New Delhi on July 12, 2012 for working out a mechanism for release of fishermen and their boats who cross maritime borders inadvertently. High Commission of India, Islamabad, on a continuing basis, monitors the status of Indian prisoners including fishermen in Pakistani jails and takes up the matter with the Government of Pakistan for their early release and return of their boats. Due to Government's consistent efforts, 677 Indian fishermen were released by Pakistan in 2012 and 7 have been released so far in 2013; 103 fishermen were released in 2011 and 454 fishermen in 2010.

Pakistan has not released any boat belonging to these fishermen. There are approximately 600 Indian boats in Pakistan's custody and Government has been repeatedly taking up the matter with Government of Pakistan for releasing all the Indian boats in their custody.

The Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries) is the nodal agency for payment of compensation to the fishermen lodged in Pakistani jails and the scheme — "Soft Loan Package for Replacement of Fishing vessels held in captivity in Pakistan" which is being implemented by Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA).

Trade cooperation between India and France

*257. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether French President has recently visited India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the need for cooperation between the two countries has been felt by the French President in strengthening the long term economic partnership;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by Government to increase cooperation between the two countries for infrastructural development and trade?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED):
(a) to (e) The President of the French Republic, H.E. Francois Hollande paid a State visit to India on 14-15 February, 2013, at the invitation of Prime Minister

Dr. Manmohan Singh. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation including several key Ministers of his Cabinet, senior officials, business-persons and media.

During discussions with the Prime Minister, both leaders emphasized the importance of the bilateral economic engagement and furthering bilateral co-operation in the area of trade and investment.

Discussions are regularly held with France under the India-France Joint Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation, the last meeting of which was held on 23-25 June, 2010, in Paris to promote bilateral trade including the infrastructural development.

A Joint Statement was issued during the visit. Among the agreements reached following the discussions were a Joint Statement to follow-up and strengthen cooperation in the railway sector and an MoU between the Indian Ministry of Railways and SNCF of France.

Projects constructed in joint venture under PPP mode

*258. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are several infrastructural projects being constructed in joint venture under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode during the last two years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise, project-wise and State-wise;
- (c) whether there is any agreement for sharing dividend in these projects; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, including the monitoring mechanism that is in place to supervise these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): (a) and (b) The following projects have been constructed in Joint Venture under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode during 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Sl. No.	Ministry of Railways	Project Cost (Rs. crore)
1	2	3
1	Haridaspur - Paradeep port connectivity (New Line)	1,186