

## **India – Central African Republic Relations**

India and Central African Republic [CAR] enjoy friendly relations. CAR has supported India's candidature at various international forums. Both countries are keen to strengthen the existing relations.

A delegation led by Minister of Small & Medium Enterprises and consisting of Deputy Minister for Finance and Adviser to the President of CAR took part in the 6th CII-EXIM Bank conclave held on March 14-16, 2010.

Minister of Economic Planning and International Cooperation, Minister for Energy and Minister for Communications participated in 7th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave held in New Delhi from February 27-29, 2011.

Foreign Minister Lt. Gen. Antoine Gambi had earlier visited India from 18-19 February 2011 for the LDC Foreign Ministers Conference held in New Delhi and again for the 7<sup>th</sup> CII-EXIM Bank Conclave for India Africa Project Partnership in March 2011.

Mr. Faustin-Archange Touadera, Prime Minister of CAR visited New Delhi from March 18-20, 2012, led a high level delegation comprising six Cabinet Ministers [Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Transport, Minister of Energy and Hydraulic, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Minister of Commerce and Minister and Director of Cabinet of President]; senior officials and members of Chambers of Commerce of CAR to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership. CAR was 'Guest Country' at the Conclave. Prime Minister of CAR had called on the former Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Mr. Parfait Anicent Mbay, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Integration, Francophone and Central Africans Abroad visited India to participate in the 9<sup>th</sup> CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership held in Delhi from 17-19 March, 2013.

Ms. Gaudeuille Nee Medou Juliene Desiree, delegate from CAR attended and participated in 3<sup>rd</sup> India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi from October 26-30, 2015.

### **Agreements/MOUs:**

The following bilateral Agreements/MOUs exist between India and CAR:

- MOU for setting up an IT Centre for Excellence in Bangui signed in March, 2010.
- Foreign Office Consultation signed on September 3, 2010.

- MOU for setting up two learning stations under the Hole-in-Wall Computer Education project signed on September 3, 2010.

### **Foreign Office Consultations:**

The first Foreign Office Consultations between two Ministries of Foreign Affairs were held in capital Bangui on January 17, 2011. The issues of bilateral interest and ways to expand trade, investment and technical cooperation between the two countries were discussed. The Indian side was led by Shri Rajinder Bhagat, Joint Secretary (WA), MEA while the CAR delegation was led by H.E. General Antoine Gambi, Foreign Minister.

### **India's Economic Assistance to CAR:**

**Lines of Credit:** The Government of India has approved the following Lines of Credit to the CAR:

- LOC project of US\$ 29.5 million for construction and commissioning of a 400 MT/day cement plant in Bangui was nearing completion when all the Indian workers had to be evacuated in early 2014 due to security situation in CAR. Team of Jaguar Overseas Ltd. and Exim Bank visited CAR in August 2016 to assess the damage to the plant by rebels and to explore the way to re-start the work. The report from Jaguar Overseas is awaited.
- US\$ 5.5 million for supply of 100 buses, spare parts and construction of a workshop for the buses. **The buses have already been supplied, however they have been damaged during civil unrest in CAR and only two buses are running now.** The workshop for these buses had been completed and handed over. However the workshop was destroyed by the rebels.
- The work on LOCs for US\$ 20 million for Limestone mining for the Cement plant in Bangui was not completed by M/s Jaguar Overseas Ltd., the Indian contractor executing the project, as the team had to leave Bangui due to insecurity because of political instability. The way to restart the work again after formation of stable government in CAR is under examination.
- LOCs for US\$ 39.69 million for two hydroelectric projects has been signed with Government of CAR. The LOC has been on hold due to issue of nonpayment of dues to Exim Bank for the previous LOCs. [Government of CAR has requested for restructuring of the loans due to precarious economic conditions because of long political instability.]

### **Donations and Grants:**

Two learning stations under the Hole-in-Wall Computer Education were set up and inaugurated on **31st August, 2011**.

The Pan African e-network project has been implemented in CAR. Tele-education, Telemedicine and VVIP **connectivity have been set up in Bangui**.

**Capacity Building Programme:**

23 slots under ITEC programme were utilised during 2010-16. 1 slot of IAFS was also utilized in 2012-13. 4 CAR women availed of ITEC training in solar electrification and rooftop water harvesting course at Barefoot College, Rajasthan during 2014-15. 10 slots under ITEC programme have been allocated for 2016-17.

**Trade and Commercial Relations:**

Trade between the two countries is miniscule due to the long history of political and security unrest in the CAR. CAR has huge natural resources such as diamond, gold, uranium, timber, oil and hydropower and there is a lot of potential for bilateral cooperation.

Bilateral trade figures are given below:

**(US\$ million)**

<b>Year</b>	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
<b>Exports</b>	6.28	8.15	7.73	7.76	9.17
<b>Imports</b>	2.08	1.99	0.91	0.63	0.83
<b>Total</b>	8.36	10.14	8.64	8.39	10.00

**Indian community:**

Due to the prevailing political and security situation, only about 66 Indians(including 45 people working in UN mission in MINUSCA) are living in CAR. They are primarily engaged in trading activities.

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**December 8, 2016**