## MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS EXTERNAL PUBLICITY DIVISION

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GROWING INDO-ALGERIAN INTER-GOVERNM NTAL COOPERATION

New Delhi, Pausa 14, 1903 January 4, 1982

As a part of the growing Indo-Algerian Inter-Governmental Cooperation, a high level delegation led by the Minister of Transport and Fisheries, Government of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, visited India during October, 1981. A protocol on cooperation in the Railway Sector between the two Governments was signed during their visit, thus paving the way for the Indian Railways to participate in the on-going developmental programmes of the S.N.T.F.

As a follow up of the above, RITES submitted an offer to the S.N.T.F. for carrying out engineering studies for the AIN-TOUTA-M'SILA section of the proposed high plateau railwayline in algeria. This offer has recently been finalised after negotiations and contract signed.

The present contract is valued at approximately US\$ 4.2 million and envisages active participation of the engineers of S.N.T.F. during the engineering studies, enabling sharing of appropriate railway expertise of the Indian Railways, with S.N.T.F. The team of Indian Railway engineers will be proceeding shortly to algeria, to commence the study.

The growing cooperation in the Railway Sector, between India and Algeria is also reflected from the fact thar RITLS has been asked to participate in the further study of 5 more developmental projects of S.N.T.F. in Algeria. Indian Railway construction company(IRCON) will also actively participate in the railway developmental programme of S.N.T.F. with the submission of an offer, by mid January, railwayline. This will be followed up with further offers for other lines.

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