

REPORT OF MISSION

Partner Institution :	UNIVERSITY OF DELHI, DELHI
Staff/ Expert Name :	DR. ARVIND SINHA
Position :	RESEARCHER
Dates of mission :	26 October to 25 November 2005
Place(s) of Mission :	Paris and Aix-en-Provence in France
Eurindia Activity N° related to the mission :	ALA/95/23- 2003/77077
Date & Signature	21 December 2005

Objective(s) of the Mission :

Outline the main objective(s) of the mission.

The objectives of the mission were :

- a) to survey the nature of the eighteenth century French documents on the Indo-European textile trade available in French archives and libraries and to examine their content ;
- b) from the documents so examined to select sources that are useful for the subject and provide us information on Indian textiles, particularly their exports to Europe through the French Company or through private traders in the second half of the eighteenth century ;
- c) to look for rare books and other forms of information in museums and libraries of France that could provide any information on the subject in the form of description of textile variety, trade statistics or illustrations, which could be used for visual displays ; and
- d) to prepare a list of the selected documents out of the diverse material examined, which can be uploaded on Eurindia website, as part of contribution by Delhi University in this project.

Description of the Mission :

Provide an executive summary of your mission

The mission was of one month duration from **26nd October till 25th November 2005**. Most part of the mission was confined to the archives, bibliothèques and museums in Paris. Originally, I had planned to visit Lorient and possibly Nantes but I was informed that our partners in Belgium have covered the archives at these places. I had even prepared a list of documents to be consulted at Lorient as the Archives at Lorient has maritime records under AML-13, IP 240-266. Subsequently, I decided to concentrate my research in Paris and then visit Aix-en-Provence as the second part of this mission.

After consulting various catalogues and Guides to archival documents, I commenced my study at **Bibliothèque Nationale de France, The François Mitterrand site**. There I consulted the Rare-books section and found a few useful works, particularly of Alexandre Leoux de Flaix, memoir of Pierre Louis Lacretelle et Blonde. A few secondary sources were also consulted here. The site at **Richelieu** of Bibliothèque Nationale was also visited. A cursory glance at Telugu sources at the Oriental Manuscript section records, did not suggest much material on textiles. **The Carte et Plan section** of BN was consulted to locate the weaving and textile districts of Coromandel trade. It has a rich collection of maps of Coromandel with minute details of each centre. This was done to locate maps which reveal the weaving districts of the Coromandel region. **Archives Nationales** in Paris possesses a variety of documents pertaining to the Indo-French trade, besides storing information on official and private correspondence on a variety of themes. Documents pertaining to the French commerce are stored in various series. To prepare for selecting the possible sources the four volume Guide by Saur on sources available in the French Archives was consulted. Some of the documents dealing with companies de commerce were mentioned in **F-serie**. The following documents were examined :

F/2A/11 **Des Indes Orientales** but these documents deal more with the West Indian islands rather than with the Indian trade.

F/2B/1-7 (**Colonies en générale- Mélanges**) Memoirs et documents divers sur le commerce entre La France et ses colonies.

F/2B/8-10 Memoir sur le commerce et la regime commercial des colonies avant 1790 but almost the entire material was related to the American colonies and there was nothing on India.

F/3/45, F/3/46, F/83,84,85,86 (**collection of Moreau de Saint-Méry**) dealing with India and the Compagnie des Indes 1746-1791. These contained geographical description of Hindustan, political divisions in

1784, letters to Pondicherry in the year 1790, formation of committees after the arrival of the news of the French Revolution and the state of revenue and the population figures.

Microfilm numbers B/212, B/213, B/214A and 214B were also studied containing letters of M. de Souillac and Monneron written during 1785-86, Tipu Sultan's correspondence, official letters with Isles de France, Isle de Bourbon and Pondicherry administrators and there was brief mention at places of commerce and bills of exchange concerning Indian trade. This series is organized of original correspondences and instructions of the kings and the state officials to governors, various intendants and officers pertaining to colonial administration.

Serie **C2** has several documents related to India under the heading Fonds des Colonies- **Indes et Compagnie des Indes**. It has heterogeneous documents in the form of correspondances between the rulers of France and the Indian counters as well as of the companies of France bordering colonies of the Indian Ocean. It includes not only the territories of the Islands of France and of Bourbon but also of the western coast of Africa and Louisiana in Canada and the West Indian islands. The following micro-films were consulted on a selective basis due to time constraint :

- C2-47 & 48 Compagnie des Indes, Administration en France, 1756-1779
- C2-56 Indes Orientales, commerce, 1686-1788
- C2-105 Compagnie des Indes-Sa Chute et sa suppression
- C2-113-114 Projet de nouvelle Compagnie des Indes 1784-85
- C2-115 Historique de l'établissement des Française en Asie 1537-1822
- C2- 127 Correspondance générale- Pondichère
- C2-145 Journal de la monnaie de Pondichère 1770-1778
 - C2-146 Correspondance général 1776
 - C2-172 Correspondance général 1785-88
 - C2- 241 Conseil de Pondichère 1792-1793
 - C2- 271 Marine de la Compagnie des Indes, 1681-1771
- C2-272-276 Vaisseaux de la Compagnie, 1700-1768
 - C2-279-283 Lorient, Port de la Compagnie des Indes 1679-1786
- C2-284 Employés et agents de la Compagnie, XVII-XVIIIe Siècles
- C2-285 Productions et animaux, XVIIIe siècle
- C2-290 Memoires, rapports et correspondances concernant les établissements française aux Indes 1736-1826.

Centre Historique des Archives at Vincennes (Château de Vincennes) in Paris possesses records and manuscripts and rare books and the Department of Marine(DM) appeared to be having something on the subject. *The Guide des Archives et de la Bibliothèque du service historique* by Jean Claude Devos and Marie-Anne Corvisier de Villèle was consulted. It mentioned some rare books in **Série D 1n and D II n-** Sciences géographiques et historiques pertaining to Asie.

I decided to explore this centre as well.

Another place that was included in the itinerary as an afterthought, was **Musée de la Mode et du Textile** at 107, rue de Rivoli, Paris. I was expecting atleast a few expositions of the Indian textile. Two days were spent here for consultation.

The last part of the mission was planned to be carried out at **Archives d'Outre mer in Aix-en-Provence** at the overseas records office from 20th

to 24th November 2005. Here, Nahalie Sabatie and Marie-Paul Blasini provided all type of logistic support. Many of the documents in Serie B, C2 and F were available in micro-films in the Archives Nationales at Paris. In the Private Archives section, the **Files of Companies-8AQ1-391** deal with the new compagnie that was established in 1785 by Calonne. These documents come to supplement the old funds of the Colonies (Serie C2). Besides correspondences and the accounting records of the company, it contains records relating to the ships, their disputes, their armament and all the information on French trade with the Asian states and the colonies. The Archives is also possessing some very old and rare books but their actual utility could be assessed only by going through them. In Bibliothèque de l'Université de Provence, Aix-Marseille, some recent books were also consulted which had direct reference to the textile trade.

Concrete and quantified outputs of the missions

Describe the main results achieved.

Visits to various archives and museums helped in examining the relevant sources and forming an idea regarding the usefulness of each document from the point of view of the mission. The following folders and registers were consulted and subsequently a selective list was prepared for the use of Eurindia project.

At **Bibliothèque Nationale de France, François Mitterrand site I**

consulted the rare-books section and found a few useful works such as : Legoux de Flaix, Alenandre, 'Memoire sur le blanchiment des toiles écrués et le boundage ou décrassement du lingue sale' Paris, 1804, 15 p.

■ *Essai historique, Geographique et Politique sur L'Hindoustan avec le tableau de son commerce*, Paris, 1807, Tome I and II.

Grose, John Henry, *A Voyage to the East Indies ...by Mr. Grose*, London, 1772, 2 vols.

The Carte et Plan section of BN was consulted to locate the weaving and textile districts of Coromandel trade. It has a rich collection of maps of Coromandel with minute details of each centre. The following folios were consulted here:

1. Ge.C 10337- Indien Océan- Voyage 'Le Maurepas' et ' Le Pondichéry' 1703-1704.
2. Ge. AF. Pf. 38(54)- 1788 The southern countries of India from Madras to Cape Comorin (in English)-.
3. Ge. Af. Pf. 3(52) - Indes Orientales (in Spanish)- XVII th century.
4. Ge. Af. Pf. 195 (4883) - a new map of East India (in English)- XVIIth century.
5. Ge. Af. Pf. 195 (4885)- Carte des Indes Orientales-1665.
6. Ge. D. (15501) –Carte des Indes Orientales-1677.
7. Ge. D. (SH. 1 39-2) Indian Ocean-1776
8. Ge. FF (4680) - Plans of ports in the East Indies-1781
9. Ge. DD 2987 B (6988) Inde: Côte de Pondichéry- 1775
10. Ge.DD. 2987 B (6865) - Inde sud (in Dutch)- about 1710
11. Ge.DD.. 5411 (40) Orientales, Côtes (in Dutch)- XVIIth century-Indes
12. Ge.DD.. 5412(37) Indes Orientales- XVIIth century.
13. Ge. FF 8232 bis- Indes- colonies-1773.

14. Ge. DD 5419 (58) XVIIth cent. Inde : Côtes.
15. Ge. D 7826 –Carte des Indes –1750.
16. Ge. D. 12043, Les Indes Orientales-1786.
17. Ge. AF. Pf. 38 (54), Inde, Sud – 1788.
18. Ge. DD 6999- Carte des côtes de Malabar et Coromandel-1700.
19. Ge. BB 101- Carte de L'Inde, 1752
20. Ge. DD. 2987 (6859) Carte des côtes de Malabar et Coromandel, 1723.

Some of the above mentioned maps help us locate the principal textile producing districts on the eastern coast of southern India. These add to visual representation of producing centres of India.

In the Manuscript Section, Some ledgers of Fonds Ariel Serie were consulted comprising **Nouv. Acq. Serie 8928, 8930 and 8935**. These were volumous registers consisting of letters to the Syndics and administrators, reports, correspondences with the Indian rulers, military campaigns or their preparations, extracts of letters, diplomatic correspondence and plans to counter the English moves. Matters pertaining to commerce and textiles in India does find mention but it remains fairly general. Some of the letters of the year 1771 from Pondicherry administrators in volume no. 8930 contain comments on textile items and financial transactions or funds by bankers like Pelling de Frie (pages 364-404).

At **Musée de la Mode and Textile**, 107 rue de Rivoli, Paris, there were some illustrations that represent the costumes of India and its textile patterns. Of particular importance were Register numbers- 178, 178B and 296. Here, one could have a glimpse of the Coromandel textiles collected from various museums. These illustrations pertain to the seventeenth and the eighteenth centuries. I could not locate written information on the subject except for one - dossier no. 581/511/1985 titled 'Textile de L'Inde' but it was found that it was merely an official correspondence between the governments of India and France and was of no use for this project.

The Archives of Château de Vincennes in Paris, sèrie D- Sciences, géographique et historiques had some rare books of the eighteenth century. I had a cursory look at some of them due to paucity of time and uncertainty of finding something fruitful. The following works were consulted :

D 1-n-206 Robert Charles, *Journal d'un voyage fait aux Indes Orientales par M. du Quesne, depuis le 24 fevrier 1690 jus'au 20 aout 1691*, La Haye, (1721), 3 volumes.

D 1-n-207 *Nouveau Voyage (du sieur Luillier) aux grandes Indes, avec une instruction pour le commerce*, Rotterdam, (1742)

D1-n-216 *Voyage dans l'Inde et au Bengal, fait dans les années 1789 et 1790 par .: Degranpré* , Paris, (1801), 2 vols.

These were interesting works of that period but I could not find anything specific regarding textile trade. The focus of these works was geographic description and general information.

At **Archives Nationales in Paris**, several microfilms and documents were examined. There is hardly anything worth mentioning on Coromandel textiles in F/2 A, F/2B, F/2C and F/3 series as these documents were mainly related to the French colonies in the western hemisphere. I

examined microfilms numbers F 2B/2-8, F2B/ 10, 12 and 14- *Memoires et documents divers sur le commerce entre la France et ses colonies, XVIIe – XVIIIe siècles* does have brief mention of exports to India from 1683-1685 and occasional reference to share of Indian trade in total volume of French colonial trade but almost the entire coverage is given to the American and the West Indian colonies and the slave trade. Documents in F2A/ 11 – *Colonies*, from 1626 till the end of the 18th century is mainly in the nature of memoirs but these are not of much use for this project as the focus of these sources is on slave trade between Africa and the New World. Similarly. Information in F3/ 86 and 87 pertaining to late-18th century was administrative in character and one hardly finds any mention of Indian textiles. *Série B* has some reference to the Coromandel trade but its focus was more on relations with English and on the French islands in the Indian Ocean. Scattered mention of some financial transactions, fund transfers and commission on these transactions can be found in a few documents. These also have large number of letters of the French officials, particularly those of Souillac and Monneron, dealing with the trade and other problems of the new company related to the late eighteenth century period. The following sources were consulted to discern information from the point of view of textile trade, statistics, description and illustrations. At the same time, it must be pointed out that very few of these above-mentioned sources discussed the textile trade in detail.

Serie C2 has several documents related to India under the heading *Fonds des Colonies- Indes et Compagnie des Indes*. It has heterogeneous documents in the form of correspondances between the rulers of France and the Indian counters as well as of the companies of France bordering colonies of the Indian Ocean. It includes not only the territories of the Islands of France and of Bourbon but also of the western coast of Africa and Louisiana in Canada and the West Indian islands. The following microfilms were consulted on a selective basis due to time constraint. *Serie C2* below provided greater information than other series in the Archives Nationales, as some of the documents are dealing with shipments and occasionally provide information on the composition of cargo on separate ships, correspondence pertaining to trade and memoirs on commerce.

Microfilm/folio no.	Year	Subject
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C 2- 56	1686- 1788	Indes Orientales-Commerce. This microfilm has many documents pertaining to textile trade and was found useful for the purpose of the mission..
C 2- 11 3- 11 4	1784- 1785	Projet de nouvelle Compagnie des Indes. Has some information on textiles by way of cargo descriptions and prohibitions placed in force by the French government.
C 2- 11 5	1537- 1822	Historique de l'établissement des Française en Asie. Focus on Bengal but some mention of the Indian textiles, giving history of French in India from 1537 to 1822 in a memoir. Some information can be used.
C 2- 12 7	1773	Correspondance générale-Pondichèry, Law de Lauriston. Mainly deals with political correspondence and not of much use for this project.
C 2- 14 5- C 2- 14 6	177017 79&177 6	Journal de la monnai de Pondichèry and Correspondance générale. Has use in terms of conversion rates of the Indian and European currency exchange as these existed in 1770s. C2-146 contains correspondence from Chandernager but does not havemuch to offer from the point of view of textile..
C 2- 17 2	1785- 1788	Correspondance générale, 1785-1788. Mostly dealing with political activities and not of much use for our project.
C 2- 17 9	1786- 1789	Correspondance générale, 1786-1789, deals with political correspondence between the Indian rulers and the French. Not of much use for the project
C 2- 18 4	1785- 1793	Correspondace général – Indes, Princes indiennes 1786-1787, Souillac, Cossigny, Moracin and Convay. A small part of this gives information on the production of textiles and plans to attract weavers.
C 2- 24 4	1767- 1792	Mèmoire générale, 1767-1792. Does not provide any information on textiles.
C 2- 27 1	1681- 1771	Marine de la Compagnie des Indes. Brief details of the cargo of the ship <i>Le Juptier</i> can be utilised.
C 2- 27	1700- 1768	Vaisseaux de la compagnie. Useful information on construction of company's shins

Some of the above provide information on textile varieties that were traded among the European traders. The descriptions and prohibitions discernible from the detailed list of cargo placed in force by the

The most fruitful part of the mission was my visit to **Aix-en-Provence**. Here, in Centre des Archives d'outre mer (CAOM). Some of the documents had been shifted from the Archives Nationales in Paris. I could browse the records of the nouvelle Compagnie des Indes. Of particular utility was **Fonds Privée - Serie 8AQ**. I was able to go through several registers and cartons, some of these I had already consulted earlier during my research. Besides correspondences and the accounting records of the company, it contains records relating to the ships, their disputes, their armament and all the information on French trade with the Asian states and the colonies. Following records in this serie were consulted by me during my stay in Aix-en-Provence :

8AQ 40 Compagnie des Indes-Correspondance originale. This register contains letters of Moracin from Pondicherry highlighting problems posed by the English for the French traders and compares the French cargo with the Danes and the Portuguese.

8AQ 194 Cotte A, CD I-Comptoir de Pondichèry, 16 May 1792 - 30 June 1793. It provides petty accounts of individual financiers but there is no mention of textile items.

8AQ 195 Cotte A, CD I- Nouvelle Administration, Journal du magasin des marchandises d'Europe, 1June 1792- 30June 1793. Gives statistical details of the cargo brought in each ship from Europe.

8AQ 197 Compagnie des Indes, Journal du comptoir du Bengal. Mentions names and account of the important European bankers and commercial houses in Calcutta.

8AQ 199 Comptoir de Bengale. Not of direct relevance to the subject of this mission although rich from the point of view of Bengal cloth trade.

8AQ 216 Compagnie des Indes- Bureau des achats-A. Mentions only the value of cargo in each ship but is useful as it gives the names of important bankers associated with the textile trade.

8AQ 244 Brouillard du Bureau des achats. This register contains minute information of financial dealings of all investors from different parts of Europe and has account of their profits and losses.

8AQ 247 Comptoirs de l'Inde, 1786-1790. Provides detailed list of expenses on daily basis that includes record of advances made to the weavers and merchants and agents.

8 AQ 248 Etat des demandes – Indes, 1786 – 1790, mentions assorted items shipped in ships *Malabar, Le Tippoo Sultan La Bretagne and Le Bailly de Suffren* carrying goods contracted in Surat, Mahè and Pondicherry.

8AQ 249 Facture des marchandises des Indes achetées en Europe, 15 Nov. 1785- 31 August 1790. Bills of payment of the Indian textiles and petty accounts of the Madras merchants.

8AQ 259 Dispositions pour diverses ventes, 17 Octobre 1785. Not of much use as it only has details of the Chinese cargo.

8AQ 294 Ventes faites à Paris. These are assorted letters containing names of petty merchants involved in purchases

8AQ 302 Copie des factures des marchandises exportées des Indes but it lists item-wise exports to India. It also mentions the names and accounts of various financiers.

8AQ 303 Compagnie des Indes, Bureau des achats-cargaisons d'importations en retour des Indes, 1786-1789. It contains ship-wise description of cargo including textile items and provides rich statistical information of its value and quantity. This register is of considerable use for the project.

8AQ 304 Cargaisons des Indes – Bureau des Achats. This ledger deals primarily with the 'country' trade and gives details of assorted items including textiles' exports.

8AQ 344 Pondichéry comptabilité, 1786 – 1796 - lettres des agents. Contains lettres in carton from the administrators in Paris to the agents in Pondicherry pertaining to financial matters. Mentions several details of bill of exchange of the prominent banking houses and the agents.

8AQ 346 Affaires de la Compagnie, correspondance, reseignments généraux sur les comptoirs-Correspondance du Comité à Chandernagor avec le Conseil de Calcutta. Some of the letters contain brief description of Bengal textiles.

8AQ 347 Affaires de la Compagnie, correspondance, reseignments généraux sur les comptoirs- Yanaon. The carton contains several letters to Paris administrators as well as to the financial agents in French settlements for the arrangement of funds, transactions, contracts pertaining to textiles and other items to be procured in Pondicherry.

8AQ 358 Service des passangers ; service des marchandises : exportations et importations ; cargaisons 1785-1793. This carton provides detailed information of the commodity-composition of each ship that sailed from Bengal, China and the state of demand in Pondicherry. From the point of view of textile trade, this carton contains richest information.

8AQ 359 Ventes des marchandises ; dispositions pour les ventes et états – 1786. This carton mentions detailed list of textiles exported from India through each ship and describes the variety, quantity and value of cloths.

8AQ 377 Le Vaisseau – La Ville de L'Orient. It contains financial accounts of each comptoir of the French in India. Gives details of Bengal textiles that was exported and the names of principal merchants.

I also found an excellent article 'Le Commerce de tissus de coton à Pondichère au XVIIe et XVIIIe siècle' by Jouveau-Dubreuil in *Revue Historique de l'Inde Française*, 1952. There were certain other series which I would have consulted (e.g. E et EE-II and Files Rapatries, folios in series B pertaining to Pondicherry) but due to the time constraint it was not possible. I also made a brief visit to Bibliothèque de l'Université de Provence, Aix-Marseille. It had some recent works on Indo-French trade that includes textile. Of the several works Philippe Haudrière & Gérard Bouedec's *Les Compagnie des Indes* (1999) has some beautiful illustrations taken from Le Musée de La Compagnie des Indes at Lorient, Mulhouse(p.79 and 84) and Saint Louis(p.83).

A list of relevant documents and published material is prepared for the purpose of downloading it for Eurindia website.

Concrete and quantified contributions to Eurindia project

Quantify activities and outputs .

Of the various sources available in **Archives Nationale at Paris, Serie C2** has several documents related to India under the heading **Fonds des Colonies- Indes et Compagnie des Indes**. It has heterogeneous documents in the form of correspondances between the rulers of France and the Indian counters as well as of the companies of France bordering colonies of the Indian Ocean. However, some of the documents provide important information on not only the volume and value of textile trade between India and Europe but also describe the textile variety and sometimes even the process of manufacturing. **The following micro films were found useful. These are arranged according to serial numbers, microfilm number, title, date, language, and comments :**

1. **C2- 56**, Indes Orientales, Commerce, 1686 – 1788 (French); Provides detailed information on export of cotton and silk items from Pondicherry from 1688 till 1699. A memoir discusses the trade from Pondicherry in 1733. There is also a detailed list of the purchases made by the French at Pondicherry and other comptoirs in 1768 listing the purchase and sale price of each cotton item and profits earned on them. A lot of statistical information can be gathered from these documents and a clear picture of textile exports can be gathered.
2. **C2 – 105-106**, Chut et suppression de la Compagnie, 1761-1771 (French) ; Although most of the documents are memoirs pertaining to the abolition in 1769 of the Compagnie des Indes, there is scattered information on textile variety, e.g. on p.87.
3. **C2 – 113-114**, Projet de nouvelle Compagnie des Indes, 1784-1785 (French) ; Contains outlines of various projects and memoirs for the formation of a new company but some information of Indian textile trade can be collected from trade figures stating the value of cargo sent by the French Company in 1786-1787 and profits made through it. There is a memoir against the French prohibition on the import of white cloths, observations on products produced in India and a table of merchandise sold at Lorient in 1784.
4. **C2 – 115**, Historique de l'établissement des Française en Asie, 1537 – 1822 (French) ; Mostly dealing with Bengal commerce and salt import but population figures and brief mention of thread and cloth production.
5. **C2 – 184**, Correspondance général - Compte rendu pour Mons. Le ministre de la marine, 6 February 1788 (French) ; Letters from Conway mention the production of textiles in Pondicherry and the advances made to weavers and suggestion of alluring weaving community to make Pondicherry as flourishing a centre of cloth production as it was in the time of Duplex.
6. **C2 – 213 - 214**, Correspondance de Nouvelle Compagnie avec Tippou sultan, 1787-1788 (French) ; Mostly deals with the

correspondence with Tipu Sultan, some mention is there of trade of Pondicherry, bills of exchange and the state of merchandise in French ships. Not very useful from the point of information on textiles.

7. **C2 – 271**, Marine de la Compagnie des Indes – organisation et règlements, 1681 – 1771 (French) ;
8. **C2 – 272**, Vaisseaux de la Compagnie, 1700 – 1768 (French) ; Has interesting documents concerning the construction of ships, their design and technology and some idea can be formed on textile trade after studying the commodity composition of the ships which landed at Lorient in 1731. These provide item-wise list of Indian textiles.
9. **C2 - 274**, Vaisseaux de la Compagnie, 1700 – 1768 (French) ; though the first part of microfilm is devoted to war activities, the second part has mention of textiles and bills of exchange from Fort St. David, Vizagapatam, Ingeram, Madapollem and Madras pertaining to the period 1749 – 1768.
10. **C2 – 275**, Vaisseaux de la Compagnie, 1700 – 1768 (French) ; deals with the maritime activities of the French Company and lists details of ships trading between Pondicherry and Lorient and St. Malo, age and cost of construction of ships and has rich data on trade (1719 – 1721) but these largely refer to the European exports.
11. **C2 – 276**, Vaisseaux de la Compagnie, 1700 – 1768 (French) ; Scattered information on trade between 1701 – 1715.
12. **C2 – 284**, Employés et agents de la compagnie, XVIIe – XVIIIe siècles (French) ; a brief mention of Indian commerce in memoir, p. 76.

13. **C2 – 285**, Productions et animaux, XVIIIe siècle (French) ; Although it refers to Bengal textile industry, there some common textile variety which were also produced on the Coromandel coast. There is a detailed mention in memoirs (dated 1733) of Dacca textile, white cloths, silk items, substances used for colouring (states 21 items used in preparing colours), marks used to identify each quality of cloth and the process of manufacturing *Dorea*. There are some illustrations of the print and explicit presentation of its manufacturing stages.

At Bibliothèque Nationale de France, François Mitterrand site the rare-books section preserves a few useful works Which provide crucial information on textile items of India. These include the following works: Legoux de Flaix, Alexandre, 'Memoire sur le blanchiment des toiles écrues et le boundage ou décrassement du lingue sale' Paris, F. Buisson, An Xii - 1804, 15 pages, printed text, monograph. This memoir describes in detail the entire bleaching and printing process in India and makes suggestion to the French to adopt a similar method for the sake of economy of time and money.

- *Essai historique, Géographique et Politique sur L'Hindoustan avec le tableau de son commerce*, Paris, 1807, Tome I and II. By far the best work on Indian textiles of the late eighteenth century as it not only describes the textile variety but also provides details of the entire manufacturing technique of each textile item and their marketing status, analysing the state of demand in Europe.

Grose, John Henry, *A Voyage to the East Indies ...by Mr. Grose*, London, 1772, 2 vols. . The site at **Richelieu of Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris** has some information in the letters written in the year 1771 by Pondicherry administrators in volume no. 8930. These contain comments on textile items and financial transactions or fund transfers by bankers like Pelling de Frie (pages 364-404). **The Carte et Plan section** of Bibliothèque Nationale has a rich collection of maps of Coromandel coast and inland region which help in identifying textile centres of southern India. The most useful maps from this perspective are as follow ;

1. Ge.C 10337- Indien Océan- Voyage 'Le Maurepas' et ' Le Pondichéry' 1703-1704, (76 x 52 cms.) in French. It gives a detailed view of the route taken by the French ships to reach Pondicherry.
2. Ge. AF. Pf. 38(54) - The southern countries of India from Madras to Cape Comorin -1788 (87 x 50.7)in English. Shows the southern states of India from Madras to Cape Comorin.
3. Ge. DD 2987 (6859) – Carte des Côtes de Malabar et de Coromandel, 1723 (47.7 x 56.6) in French This is a coloured map showing minute details of big and small towns, ports, big villages, rivers and hills. Very useful for the subject.
4. Ge. DD 2987 B (6988) Inde: Côte de Pondichéry- 1775 (67.5x50.5) in French. All the important centres of cloth production can be located in this map comprising Coromandel, Orissa, Golconda and Bengal.
5. Ge. DD 2987 (6999) – Côte de Coromandel, 1700, in French (dimension not mentioned). A very large, clear and detailed map of Coromandel showing features including rivers and tributaries from Negapatam to Madras.

At **Musée de la Mode and Textile**, 107 rue de Rivoli, Paris, there are some illustrations that represent the costumes of India and its textile patterns. Of particular importance are Register numbers- 178, 178B and 296. Here, one can have a glimpse of the Coromandel textiles presented in the costumes collected from various museums. These illustrations pertain to the seventeenth and the eighteenth centuries. The following list mentions serial number, title of the document, dated, Document number and comments :

6. Costume-Inde, XVIIIth century, Register no. 178 (2), large brown register thickly bound-has four illustrations depicting costume of the Coromandel, titled- Indien du Coromandel, Nabob de la Côte du Coromandel, Indien du Coromandel en habitat de deuil and Tisseran in around 1780.
7. Inde- Metiers- 1798-99 – Register no. 178 (6), large brown register, thickly bound – has three illustrations, Bramine d'Orissa, Chittery Bramine and Commis.
8. Tissus – Inde, XVIIIth century, Register no. 296 (20), Large brown register, thickly bound – has illustrations of painted and printed cotton cloth and woven silk of Madras and many stamp patterns made of woodblocks in Arcot and illustration of Coromandel carpet taken from Haddaway's book on Indian textiles.

9. Tissus – Orient, Chine et Japon, Register no. 296 (21), undated but most likely of either XVIIth or XVIIIth century, thickly bound brown register – First two pages in colour and Toiles de Jouy – Indiennes.

The Centre des Archives d'outre-mer (CAOM) at Aix-en-Provence conserves a number of documents pertaining to India. 8 AQ is the richest in content as far as documents pertaining to textile are concerned. It stores record of the new company created in 1785 by the efforts of Calonne. The following registers and cartons are found to be of relevance for Eurindia project and adopting the sequence of serial number, folio number, title of the document, dated, physical description and comments respectively:

1. **8AQ 40** Compagnie des Indes- Coromandel -Correspondance originale, 1786 – 1788, greenish brown register. This register contains letters of Moracin from Pondicherry highlighting problems posed by the English for the French traders and compares the French cargo with the Danes and the Portuguese and lists letters of exchange and instructions to different loges for the assemblage of cargo..
2. **8AQ 216** Compagnie des Indes- Bureau des achats-A. 1786 – 1789, brownish green register. Mentions only the value of cargo in each ship but is useful as it gives the names of important bankers from all the important cities of Europe including France, associated with the textile trade. Mentions the total value of cargo shipped in each ship.
3. **8AQ 244** Brouillard du Bureau des achats, 1788, dark brown register. This register contains minute information of financial accounts, insurance, and profit-loss details of all investors from different parts of Europe who were involved with the Indian trade.
4. **8AQ 247** Comptoirs de l'Inde, 1786-1790, brownish green register. Provides detailed list of expenses on daily basis of various French loges that includes record of advances made to the weavers and merchants and agents.
5. **8AQ 248** Etat des demandes – Indes, 1786 – 1790, mentions assorted items shipped in ships *Malabar, Le Tippoo Sultan La Bretagne and Le Bailly de Suffren* carrying goods contracted in Surat, Mahè and Pondicherry.
6. **8AQ 303** Compagnie des Indes, Bureau des achats-cargaisons d'importations en retour des Indes, 1786-1789. It contains ship-wise description of cargo including textile items and provides statistical information of its value and quantity.
7. **8AQ 304** Cargaisons des Indes – Bureau des Achats. This ledger deals primarily with the 'country' trade and gives details of assorted items including textiles' exports.
8. **8AQ 344** Pondichèry et Surat - lettres des agents-1786, grey carton.
10. **8AQ 358** Service des passangers ; service des marchandises : exportations et importations ; cargaisons 1785-1793, grey carton. This

carton provides detailed information of the commodity-composition of each ship that sailed from Bengal, China and the state of demand in Pondicherry, letters discussing the possibilities of trade, observations of officials, shipping records, tables of exports from India. Most important information is in the form of samples of cloth (12 pieces) classified according to the quality dated 2 January 1793. A detailed list of cargo exported from the coast of Coromandel and description of each variety of cloth and their identification marks can be seen in these documents. From the point of view of textile trade, this carton contains richest information.

11. **8AQ 359** Ventes des marchandises ; dispositions pour les ventes et états – 1786. This carton mentions detailed list of textiles exported from India through each ship and describes the variety, quantity and value of cloths.

12. **8AQ 377** Le Vaisseau – La Ville de L'Orient. It contains financial accounts of each comptoir of the French in India. Gives details of Bengal textiles that was exported and the names of principal merchants.

An excellent article was consulted here describing textile variety purchased by the French is written by Jouveau-Dubreuil 'Le Commerce de tissus de coton à Pondichère au XVIIe et XVIIIe siècle' in *Revue Historique de l'Inde Française*, 1952. Bibliothèque de l'Université de Provence, Aix-Marseille had some recent works on Indo-French trade with emphasis on textile. Of the several works Philippe Haudrière & Gérard Bouedec's *Les Compagnie des Indes* (1999) has some beautiful illustrations taken from Le Musée de La Compagnie des Indes at Lorient, Mulhouse(p.79 and 84) and Saint Louis(p.83).

Possible problems met during the missions

Highlight and justify any divergence and difficulty encountered

Contains lettres from the administrators in Paris to the agents in Pondicherry pertaining to financial matters and demand for more funds to handle trade. Material can be indirectly used in the project.

9. **8AQ 347** Affaires de la Compagnie, correspondance, reseignments généraux sur les comptoirs- Mahé and Yanaon, (1785-1795), grey carton. The carton contains several letters to Paris administrators as well as to the financial agents in French settlements for the arrangement of funds, transactions, contracts pertaining to textiles and other items to be procured in Pondicherry.

During the mission there was no problem faced, thanks to the support and help provided by Nathalie Sabatie in coordinating my programme and Marie Paule Blessini at COAM for arranging the source material and its procurement during my stay in Aix-en-Provence. However, as the source material was volumous from which the relevant documents had to be selected, examined and listed, there was time constraint and my regret is that I could not consult all the sources that I had wished to go through. Secondly, the coordination among the partners working on common themes could have been better.

Other issues

Mention any other issues you deem relevant.

Illustrations pertaining to the subject of the report shall be provided to the local coordinator very soon to be included on the website.