

FDI in Plantation Sector

2112. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 631 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd July, 2002 and state:

- (a) whether FDI has also been permitted in other plantations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reaction of the foreign owned tea majors to the opening of the tea sector to FDI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) No, Sir. FDI up to 100% is permitted only in tea sector, including tea plantations.

(b) Unlike tea plantations, which are facing the problem of aging bushes and also have a significant presence of foreign companies, from the very beginning, which have been allowed to carry on business under FERA, subject to a minimum of 26% Indian participation in the equity capital, the other plantations like rubber, coffee, etc., have a totally different industry structure where the need for FDI has not yet been felt.

(c) No formal feedback on the new policy has been received.

Use of debt recovery tribunals by NBFCs

2113. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the negative factor affecting the NBFCs is the non-availability of a speedy and effective mechanism for recovery of their dues;

(b) whether NBFCs have requested Government to provide them the facility of Debt Recovery Tribunals by bringing them within the definition of financial institutions referred to in Section 2(h) of the 'Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993' by issuing a suitable notification so that the NBFCs registered under Section 45-1A of the RBI Act, 1934 are provided the facility of Debt Recovery Tribunals; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Non-availability of a speedy and effective mechanism for recovery of dues does have adverse impact on the functioning of financial institutions.

(b) NBFCs have been representing to Reserve Bank of India to provide them the facility of Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs).

(c) At the moment DRTs are already over burdened with the cases of Banks and Financial Institutions and may not be able to take extra burden of NBFC cases.

Income Tax rebate on foreign earnings

2114. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Income Tax Department grants a hundred per cent rebate on foreign earnings as part of Government policy to increase foreign exchange reserves;

(b) if so, the details of film stars who have been allowed rebate during the last three years; and

(c) the details of the show cause notices issued to film stars etc. for alleged violations of rules during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Duty on palm oil

2115. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vanaspathi producers have revived their demand to cut duty on palm oils to reduce burden on the industry; and