

packaging, brand promotion of products and for conducting market surveys.

Clearance of Industrial projects from Gujarat

547. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of industrial projects from Gujarat lying pending for central clearance, alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (b) the details of cost of each industrial project involved;
- (c) whether additional information has been sought from the state Government/Organisations concerned;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) as on 30.11.99, no Industrial Licence Application is pending with the Central Government for grant of Letter of Intent for setting up of projects in the State of Gujarat.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Direct Foreign Investment

†548. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are making concrete efforts to attract foreign investors;
- (b) if so, the details of these efforts; and
- (c) the details of those industries in which Government are going to approve direct foreign investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) With a view to attracting more foreign direct investment (FDI), the FDI policy has been formulated and is continously reviewed so as to make it investor-friendly and to boost inflows of foreign direct investment and technology in the country, particularly in infrastructure/core sector,

keeping in mind national priorities. The foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) has been set up to facilitate speedy implementation of approved FDI projects.

The Foreign Investment Promotion council (FIDC) is also in place to suggest ways and means to promote FDI.

As per guidelines, FDI proposals are to be disposed of by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) within 30 days, subject to receipt of recommendations from the concerned Administrative Ministries as per sectoral policy for FDI.

Surplus production of Natural Rubber

549. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether production of natural rubber is surplus in the country;
- (b) whether the price of natural rubber has gone down;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps taken to maintain remunerative price for the farmers; and
- (e) the steps taken to export natural rubber?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The price of Natural Rubber (RSS IV Grade) which was around Rs. 30 per kg. in July 1994, touched more than Rs. 60 per kg. in June 1995. However, since November 1996, the prices started declining and at present are ruling between Rs. 28—30 per kg-

(d) To enable the rubber growers to get a remunerative price for their produce, Government has authorised procurement of 30,000 MTs of rubber on Government Account. The import of Natural Rubber under Advance Licences has also been banned since February 1999.

(e) The export of Natural Rubber is free under the current EXIM Policy (1997—2002).