

Indo-France Working Group in Core Sector

1570. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and France have recently decided to set up a joint working group on Core Sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEDGE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At the last Session of Indo-French Joint Committee held in New Delhi on 23-24 November, 1998, it was decided to set up a Joint Working Group on infrastructure to cover roads, ports, railways and civil aviation with a view to focus on sectors with good potential for strategic economic interaction and help identify specific projects for cooperation between the two countries.

Entry of Multinationals in the Tobacco Sector

1571. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tobacco Board has done any studies on the impact on farmers by the entry of multinationals;

(b) if so, details of such studies;

(c) whether the Tobacco Board has made any efforts to get the highest value for our tobacco from foreign companies; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed by the Tobacco Board to ensure production of high value products for the benefit of our farmers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEDGE):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. International merchants are permitted by the Tobacco Board to participate in the auctions conducted by it

to create competition for tobacco produce at the platform thereby ensuring most competitive offers for the produce. However, no new international tobacco trading company has sought the permission of the Tobacco Board to participate at auction platforms operated by the Tobacco Board.

(d) Some of the steps taken for production of high value products for the benefit of the farmers *inter alia*, include:-

(i) Reorienting production and developmental strategies to the changing international needs i.e., encouraging production of low tar, low nicotine and light soil tobaccos and discouraging production in undesirable soils.

(ii) Enhancing quality and productivity levels of Indian tobacco and reducing production cost so as to make it more price competitive in international markets.

(iii) Monitoring and strict control of pesticide residues.

(iv) Aligning grading at farmers level in line with International grading standards.

(v) Development of tobacco in new areas.

Handing over of Tea Estates to Private Owner

1572. SHRI DAWALAMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to run Peshok, Putung and Vatukvar Tea Estates, presently under Tea Trading Corporation of India;

(b) whether Government will pay the salaries and wages of workers, as well as other dues, attached with above tea gardens; and

(c) what is the status of proposal to hand over those tea estates to private owners?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEDGE): (a) to (c) Tea Trading Corporation of India (TTCI), a wholly owned subsidiary of STC, is facing an acute financial crunch being a loss making company and has been unable to discharge its obligations. The total liability of the Company is estimated around Rs. 36 crores as on 31.1.1997. The Corporation considered the following three options:—

- (i) Outright sale of the shares of the Corporation;
- (ii) Bifurcation of the existing Company in case (i) is not found possible; and
- (iii) STC to initiate liquidation proceedings in case options (i) & (ii) above are not found practicable.

TTCI has been unable to implement the options at (i) & (ii) above.

यूरोपीय देशों द्वारा “डंपिंग-विरोधी” तथा “सब्सिडी-विरोधी” नीति अपनाया जाना

1573. श्री सतीश प्रधान: क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि यूरोपीय देशों द्वारा “डंपिंग-विरोधी” और “सब्सिडी-विरोधी” उपायों का बार-बार इस्तेमाल करने से भारत के निर्यात पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ रहा है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसकी रोकथाम हेतु क्या उपाय किए जा रहे हैं?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री रामकृष्ण हेगड़े): (क) यूरोपीय देशों की ओर से यूरोपीय आयोग द्वारा बार-बार किए जा रहे पाटनरोधी तथा इमदाद रोधी उपायों से इन देशों को होने वाले भारत के निर्यात मामूली रूप से प्रभावित हुए हैं।

(क) पाटनरोधी मामलों का बचाव करना मूलतः लक्षित भारतीय कम्पनियों की जिम्मेवारी है। भारत सरकार विभिन्न निर्यात संवर्धन परिषदों तथा विभिन्न यूरोपीय देशों में अपने मिशनों के माध्यम से भारतीय कम्पनियों की सहायता कर रही है। जहाँ तक इमदाद रोधी ऐसे मामलों का संबंध है जिनमें भारत सरकार भी

एक पक्ष है, उन मामलों में यह विभिन्न लक्षित योजनाओं का बचाव करने के लिए सभी आवश्यक कदम उठा रही है। भारत सरकार ब्रूसेल्स स्थित कानूनी फर्मों के साथ-साथ भारतीय कानूनी फर्मों को सरकार की ओर से इन मामलों में लड़ने के लिए नियुक्त करती रही है। इसके अतिरिक्त, सरकार इन देशों में हमारे मिशनों के माध्यम से यूरोपीय संघ के विभिन्न सदस्य देशों को इस बात से आशस्त करने के लिए राजनयिक एकजुटता कर रही है कि विभिन्न निर्यात संवर्धन योजनाएं इमदाद के स्वरूप की नहीं हैं।

Centrally Sponsored Export Promotion Industrial Park

1574. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Centrally-Sponsored Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) Scheme was introduced in 1994;

(b) if so, how many such parks have been granted so far;

(c) what amount has been granted for the construction of each park; and

(d) what is the present stage of construction of these parks?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEDGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (d) On the basis of proposals received from State Governments, 19 Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) have been sanctioned for establishment. The scheme provides that 75% of the capital expenditure, limited to Rs. 10 crores, incurred towards creation of infrastructure facilities will be met from a Central Grant to the State Governments. Details of Central grant released to the States towards implementation of the Parks is enclosed in the statement (See below). While the EPIPs in Rajasthan and Maharashtra have been completed, those in Karnataka and U.P. are nearing completion. The EPIPs in other States are at various stages of implementation.