

proposal of Government for privatisation of all Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered any steps to be taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the main points of the strategy adopted; and

(d) by when Government's decision on proposal of privatisation of Public Sector Undertakings is likely to be finally taken?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) At present, there is no proposal before the Government for privatisation of all the public sector undertakings, nor has the ministry received any communication from AITUC opposing the so-called proposal.

Incentive package for small sector in Punjab

198. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a package of incentives for the Small Sector in the country particularly in the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) The Expert Committee on small Enterprises under the Chairmanship of Dr. Abid Hussain has recently submitted its report. As a follow up on the recommendations of the Committee, several steps including a package of measures for improving the competitiveness of small sector in the country are being taken. These would equally be applicable to the small units in the State of Punjab also. Government have already decided to raise the investment limit from Rs. 6GV75 lakhs to Rs. 300 lakhs for a SSI unit and from Rs.

5 lakhs to Rs. 25 lakhs for a tiny unit, as recommended by the Expert Committee.

Operation of Value-added electronics information service

199. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned a project from Wire News Service Bloomberg LPUSA for a 100% Indian subsidiary to operate value-added electronics information services and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether views of the Ministry of information and Broadcasting were obtained at the time of according approval to the project;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Government have given permission to M/s. Bloomberg LP, USA only for setting up a 100% owned subsidiary to operate Electronic Information Services such as Data Services, Audio Text Services, Video Text Services but excluding value added services as defined under the announced policy of Deptt. of Telecommunication. The Admn. Ministry, i.e. Department of Telecommunication were consulted before grant of the aforesaid approval.

Reluctance of foreign investors

200. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign investors are reluctant to invest in India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. During 1996 about 1549 foreign investment proposals were approved, which were higher than the proposals approved (1355) in the year 1995. This indicates growing interest of foreign investors towards India. To encourage foreign investment, the Government have taken a series of steps and some of which are, revamping of Foreign Investment Promotion Board, creation of Foreign investment Promotion Council, issuing of a set of guidelines for consideration of FDI proposals by FIPB and expansion of lists of industries for automatic approval etc.

FDIs in export oriented units

201. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved 142 proposals which involve foreign direct investment (FDIs) of nearly Rs. 2000 crore and projected export earnings of Rs. 5900 crores, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 31st January, 1997; and

(b) if so, the details of indicating the position State-wise and Union Territory-wise, project-wise including number of 100 per cent export oriented units likely to be set up during 1997-98 onwards?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A statement showing details is attached as Annexure. [See *Appendix 180, Annexure No. 5*] This includes 100% EOU approved cases as well.

Japanese assistance for setting up an Industrial Model Town

202. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked for assistance from Japan to set up an Industrial Model Town in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have also received such proposals from other multinational companies and Non-Resident Indians; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN):

(a) Government of India has sought the assistance from Japan for setting up Industrial Model Town with quality infrastructure to attract large foreign investment.

(b) Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was entrusted with the work of conducting a detailed feasibility study for establishing an Industrial Model Town in India. Gurgaon, in Haryana State was found to be the most suitable site. The proposal for setting up an Industrial Model Town is under negotiation between the Government of Haryana and the consortium of Japanese companies.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details of these proposals are given as under:—

1. An Information Technology Park is being set up at Bangalore with equity participation of Tatas, -Information Technology Park Investment Pte. Ltd., Singapore and Government of Karnataka.

2. M/s. Unitech Limited, New Delhi, were granted foreign collaboration approval for setting up a joint venture . company for development of a Technology Park at Gurgaon with foreign equity participation of M/s. First Capital property Venture Pte. Ltd., Singapore, a consortium consisting of five companies of Singapore.

Revamping of sick PSUs

203. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out a scheme to revamp the sick public