

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would allow 100 per cent FDI in aviation sector for person of Indian Origin (PIOs) including domestic airlines and allow person of Indian origin (PIOs) to invest in print media upto 100 per cent; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Government has put in place a liberal and investor-friendly policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under which FDI up to 100% is permitted on the automatic route in most sectors/activities. The policy on FDI, including policy for investment by Person of Indian Origin (PIOs), is reviewed on a continuing basis for addressing specific concerns, such as security, and providing a conducive investment climate to attract FDI.

(c) and (d) As per extant policy, FDI is permitted in the Civil Aviation sector as under:—

- (i) Scheduled domestic airlines- FDI up to 49% and investment by Non-resident Indians (NRIs) up to 100% is permitted under the automatic route subject to no direct or indirect participation by foreign airlines and sectoral guidelines.
- (ii) Non-scheduled airlines/chartered airlines and Cargo airlines- FDI up to 74% and investment by NRIs up to 100% is permitted under the automatic route subject to no direct or indirect participation by foreign airlines in Non-scheduled and chartered airlines.
- (iii) Ground Handling services- FDI up to 74% and investment by NRIs up to 100% is permitted under the automatic route subject to sectoral regulations and security clearance.

In so far as Print Media is concerned, the policy permits FDI, including investment by Foreign Institutional Investors, NRIs, PIOs, up to 26% in Indian entities engaged in news and current affairs with prior Government approval.

Shifting office of Development Commissioner from Kandla to Gandhinagar

1707. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:

SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Gujarat is considering setting up of 51 SEZs at various locations for availability of infrastructure in the State and effective coordinations;

(b) whether Government is considering shifting of the Office of the Development Commissioner to Gandhinagar from Kandla; and

(c) if so, the time by when decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The proposal for setting up of Special Economic Zones as duly recommended by the State Governments is considered and approved on merit by the Government of India. In Gujarat, Formal Approval has been accorded to 47 proposals, out of which 24 Special Economic Zones have been notified till date. In-Principle Approvals have also been granted in respect of 12 proposals for setting up of Special Economic Zones. 20 proposals for setting up of Special Economic Zones are pending for consideration by the Board of Approval.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

Export of iron ore

1708. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that iron ore is being exported to other countries; and

(b) if so, the quantity and rate of export during the year 2007-08 and 2008-09 by public as well as private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantities exported during 2007-08 and 2008-09 (April, 2008 to October, 2008) by public and private sector is given in Statement-I. (See below) MMTC is exporting iron ore to Japan and S. Korea on benchmark prices which are finalised every year and are applicable throughout the year. For exports to China, prices are finalised on transaction to transaction basis. Average price for medium grade fines exported to China during 2007-08 and 2008-09 (April, 2008 to November, 2008) and MMTC's prices for lumps and fines exported to Japan and S. Korea for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

India's Iron Ore exports by public and private sector

Agency	2007-2008 (Prov.)	(Qty in Million Tonnes)
		2008-2009 (Prov.) (April, 2008 to October, 2008)
Public Sector		
MMTC Ltd.	8.17	3.20
Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd. (KIOCL)	1.46	0.58
Others	0.93	0.13
Total (Public Sector)	10.56	3.91
Private Sector	93.71	38.15
Total Exports	104.27	42.06