

- (vi) R & D support to tea gardens,
- (vii) Training of Tea Plantation Workers, Managers
- (viii) Welfare measures covering health, sanitation, drinking water, medical care, education of wards of workers etc.

Export of Tea

The Tea Board undertakes promotional activities in the foreign markets and also lends support to Indian tea exporters in their marketing efforts. Such activities are carried by Tea Board through its overseas offices at London, Moscow and Dubai which undertake the following activities:

- (i) Participation in international and/or specialized fairs and exhibitions.
- (ii) Field sampling at specialty stores and/or principal markets.
- (iii) Media publicity.
- (iv) Buyer Seller Meets.
- (v) P.R. activities to establish closer link between importers and exporters.
- (vi) Exchange of tea delegations between India and Tea importing countries.

Transport subsidy is being provided to tea exporters towards meeting the additional transport and handling charges incurred for teas exported through I.C.D., Amingaon in Assam to increase the overall export of tea from India.

Assistance to the small tea growers

Small growers are provided assistance for replantation/rejuvenation of old tea areas and replacement planting, creation of irrigation/drainage/transportation facilities. For individual small growers holding upto 4.00 hectare, assistance is given for new planting in the hilly areas above 2500 MSL.

Small tea growers are encouraged to form Self Help Groups and setting up Leaf collection Centers/Input Storage godowns, purchase of weighing Scales/Leaf carry bags/plastic crates, purchase of Transport vehicles and field inputs-fertilizers & plant protection chemicals and implements- pruning machines, sprayers etc.

Training Programmes are also organized for Small Tea Growers. Finally incentives to the extent of 40% of the cost is being given for setting up of new mini factories by the Self Help Groups of small growers.

Allowing FDI in Retail Sector

1203. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is allowing FDI in retail sector upto 49 per cent in an Indian firm;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Walmart has started its operations in the country recently; and

(d) if so, the policy guidelines under which they have started operations as JV partner with Bharti?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) As per the extant policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is not permitted in retail trade, except in Single Brand product retailing where FDI up to 51% is permitted, with prior Government approval and subject to the following conditions:

- (i) Products to be sold should be of 'Single Brand' only;
- (ii) Products should be sold under the same brand internationally; and
- (iii) 'Single Brand' product-retailing would cover only products which are branded during manufacturing.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) FDI up to 100% is permitted in wholesale cash & carry trading on automatic route.

Revival of talks in Doha Round at WTO

1204. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is keen to revive road blocked talks in Doha Round at WTO;
- (b) what are the main issues;
- (c) what are the concessions on offer to India; and
- (d) India's position in the talks and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) India is committed to a rule-based, multilateral trade regime which is fair and equitable and an early conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations at the World Trade Organisation (WTO); however, the core concerns of the Round, namely, the development concerns of developing countries, have to be addressed.

(b) The Doha Round covers Agriculture, Non-Agricultural Market Access, Services, issues related to Trade-related Intellectual Property Rights and several other areas.

(c) The flexibilities available to India and other developing countries include, *inter alia*, provisions for lower tariff cuts over a longer implementation period and special provisions for lower tariff cuts on some products to enable developing countries to meet their food security, livelihood security and rural development needs and to protect their sensitive industrial tariff lines.