

The Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme has been expanded to cover all BPL citizens above the age of 65 years with effect from 19.11.2007.

The Government has enacted The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008. The Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board at the Central level and State Social Security Boards at the State level which shall recommend formulation of social security schemes for unorganised workers.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Lock-in-period on investment in Sectors with FDI Cap

2726. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has since approved the minimum lock-in-period on investments in sectors with Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) cap;
- (b) if so, the details of the sectors selected;
- (c) the benefits likely to be accrued therefrom;
- (d) the measures adopted to check its impact on Indian financial market; and
- (e) the time by when these rules are likely to be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) As per extant FDI policy, lock-in period FDI has been prescribed in the following sectors:

Sl. No.	Sector	FDI Cap and Approval required for FDI	Lock-in period	Details of FDI to be locked-in
1	Defence Industry sector (licensing production of arms and ammunitions)	26% (approval of FIPB/ Government)	Three years	Lock-in period would be applicable for transfer of equity from one foreign investor to another foreign investor (including NRIs & OCBs with 60% or more NRI stake) and such transfer would be subject to prior approval of the FIPB and the Government.
2	Construction Development projects, including housing, commercial premises, resorts, educational institutions, recreational facilities, city and regional level infrastructure, townships	100% (Automatic Route)	Three years	Original investment to be locked-in for three years (except for SEZs and establishment and operation of hotels and hospitals). However the investor may be permitted to exit earlier with prior approval of the Government through the FIPB.

(c) and (d) The FDI policy is reviewed on a continuing basis through an inter-Ministerial consultation process with a view to catalysing investment in the country and liberalizing the investment regime. Lock-in period assists in ensuring that the FDI brought into the country remains available for the projects in these sectors during the lock-in period and is used for the purpose for which it is brought, thereby preventing speculative investments in these sectors.

(e) Lock-in period in these two sectors has already been specified vide Press Note 2 of 2002 and Press Note 2 of 2005 respectively.

India's position in world's gold market

2727. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's position as the world's largest gold market could be under threat as demand slumped by 83 per cent to just 17.7 tonnes during January-March 2009 period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken to regain the top position in the world in future; and

(d) the steps being taken to keep the gold rates affordable to women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) There is no firm statistics on demand and availability of gold in the country. However, rough estimates place gold demand in the country at 700-800 tonnes per annum.

(c) Most of the demand for gold in India is met through imports. In the Trade Facilitation Measures announced on 26th February 2009 by the Government, STCL Limited, Diamond India Limited, MSTC Limited, Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council and Star Trading Houses (in gem and jewellery sector) have been added to the list of nominated agencies under Foreign Trade Policy 2004-2009, so as to facilitate availability of bullion to jewellery exporters.

(d) Internationally, various factors such as demand and supply, investor interest, interest rates, movement in the exchange rate of US Dollar vis-a-vis other international currencies, etc. affect the gold price. The same holds good in India too. The movement in domestic price of gold in India in the recent period is broadly in tandem with similar movement in international markets.

Demand of Tuna fish in USA and the European markets

2728. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a lot of demand for Tuna fish in USA and the European markets;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Bay of Bengal has the highest quantity of Tuna fish in the world;