(a) whether Government is aware that a private company of Uttar Pradesh is going to set up a solar plant within one kilometre range of Chandhan training and firing range for vital fighter aircrafts of Air Force in Jaisalmer;

(b) whether Government proposes to acquire the land purchased by the company near such a vital military base; and

(c) whether permission has been obtained from the Ministry to set up this plant before allotment of this land?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (c) An Indian Air Force (IAF) air to ground range exists at Pokhran near Chandhan, Jaisalmer. Presently, there is no solar plant in existence nor any construction for the same is being undertaken in the vicinity of Chandhan. Also, no permission has been granted by the Ministry of Defence nor any proposal received from any company for setting up of a solar plant at Chandhan.

Foreign capital investment in retail market

†*45. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal is being considered by Government to give foreign capital investment a free access to the retail market of the country;

(b) if so, the outlines of the proposal;

(c) whether there is any compulsion on the part of Government to permit foreign capital investment in the retail market of the country; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons for this compulsion?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) The existing policy allows for 51 % FDI in only single brand retail subject to specified conditions. Government has received suggestions from associations /trade bodies for allowing FDI in multi brand retail. The objective will be to enhance the operational efficiency of back-end infrastructure in the retail sector, reduce wastage in the agricultural sector, enhance benefits to producers, integrate the retailer in the value chain, and benefit consumers through greater competition. Towards this end, the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has released a Discussion Paper on the subject of 'Foreign Direct Investment in Multi-Brand Retail Trading', with the aim of generating informed discussion on the subject and obtaining the views and comments of various stakeholders. The discussion paper is available in the public domain.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. It is expected that the views/suggestions received in response to this Discussion Paper will enable the Government to take an appropriate policy decision at the appropriate time.

SAARC Home Ministers Meet

*46. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether meeting of South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) Home Ministers attended by Home Minister in the last week of June, 2010 resulted in positive development which will push Pakistan to address terror, including legal framework under which India can demand handing over of persons like LeT founder Hafiz Saeed in the absence of an extradition treaty;

(b) if so, whether India has managed to get Abu Salem from Portugal as both nations were party to UN Convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings; and

(c) if so, to what extent this SAARC meeting has helped India for extradition of people involved in terrorist activities in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) In the Third Meeting of SAARC Interior/Home Ministers, a multilateral forum of all the eight countries took place in Islamabad on June 26, 2010. The meeting considered, *inter alia*, issues relating to visa/immigration, security, terrorism, maritime security/piracy, police cooperation including training of police personnel, trafficking in women and children, drugs and narcotics. An important outcome of the SAARC Interior/Home Ministers' Meeting was the adoption of the Islamabad SAARC Ministerial Statement on Cooperation against Terrorism which also underscored the commitment of SAARC Member States (including Pakistan) "to apprehend and prosecute or extradite persons connected, directly or indirectly, with the commission of acts of terrorism".

The meeting also urged Afghanistan, Nepal and Pakistan to expedite ratification process of SAARC Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters which will provide broad legal framework for co-operation amongst the Member States in investigation of crime and prosecution of accused.

Request for extradition of Abu Salem was forwarded to the Portugal Government in December 2002 through the Indian Mission at Lisbon. Abu Salem was extradited by the Government of Portugal as per their domestic laws, the International Convention on Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and assurance of reciprocity in the year 2005.