

100 per cent FDI in B2B e-Commerce

2345. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed 100 per cent FDI in business to business (B2B) e-Commerce; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100% is allowed for e-commerce activities subject to the condition that such companies would divest 26% of their equity in favour of the Indian public in 5 year, if these companies are listed in other parts of the world. Further, these companies would engage only in business to business (B2B) e-commerce and not in retail trading, inter alia, implying that existing restrictions of FDI in domestic trading would be applicable to e-commerce as well.

Integrated Development of Sambhar Salt area in Rajasthan

2346. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sambhar Salt area in Rajasthan was leased to M/s. Hindustan Salt Ltd., a Government of India undertaking, by an award of Shri V.T. Krishnamachari for integrated development of the Sambhar Salt area;

(b) if so, whether the desired integrated development has taken place;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Rajasthan Government has been repeatedly requesting Government for return of Sambhar Salt area; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not agreeing to do so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Yes, Air.

(b) and (c) As on date Rs. 525 lakh has been invested for various development works including construction of Gudha Jhapog Dam and borewells and for installation of equipment, conversion of MG railway line into B.G. line and setting up of a Salt Washery.

(d) and (e) Government of Rajasthan had requested for retransfer of the leased out area of Sambhar Salt. However, this request was not agreed to as it is not in the overall interest of the Company.

Export of Spices

2347. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of export of spices to foreign countries has increased or decreased;

(b) if decreased, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the statistics for the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) While the export of spices has been fluctuating in terms of volume during the last five years in terms of value, the exports have increased.

(b) Government encourages export of value added products. Slight fall in quantity of spices exported is on account of the focus on export of value added spices. The value addition offsets the slight fall in quantity of spices exported.