

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has constituted any committee to analyse the pros and cons of allowing FDI in multi-brand retail sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (e) The existing policy allows for 51% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), in only single brand retail trade, subject to specified conditions. Government has received suggestions from associations /trade bodies for allowing FDI in multi brand retail. The objective is to enhance the operational efficiency of back-end infrastructure in the retail sector, reduce wastage in the agricultural sector, enhance benefit 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 had released a Discussion Paper titled "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. Comments were received from a number of stakeholders, including State Governments as well as Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India. Some State Governments have supported allowing FDI in retail on the ground that this will encourage investments in back-end infrastructure, reduce wastage and provide better price to farmers. An inter-Ministerial Committee was constituted to examine the comments received on the Discussion Paper. Government has yet to take a final view in the matter.

Sale of excess power by SEZ developers

159. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI:

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a developer of the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is empowered to sell the excess/surplus power from its captive power plant to Domestic Tariff Area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the developer of the SEZ is allowed to sell surplus power to the nearby industry directly or will it be routed through the State Electricity Boards or the power distribution company as the case may be;

(d) whether the SEZ developer is liable to pay normal duties and taxes for the consumables and raw materials used for the surplus power generation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) In terms of guidelines issued on 27th February, 2009 regarding power generation, transmission and distribution in SEZs, power can also be supplied to Domestic Tariff Area.

(c) The sale of power by the SEZs is subject to the provisions of Electricity Act, 2003, Electricity Rules, 2005 as amended from time to time and various power resolutions issued by the Ministry of Power and also subject to other stipulations issued from time to time.

(d) and (e) A Power Plant set up as an infrastructure in the non-processing area by the developer will be entitled to fiscal benefits only for its initial setting up and no fiscal benefit will be admissible for its operation and maintenance.

Increase in FDI in telecom sector

160. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI:

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether there is a revised proposal for the consideration of Group of Ministers (GoM) for calculation of direct and indirect equity in sectors attracting cap on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there would be any further increase in FDI in the telecom sector with the implementation of the revised proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Foreign investment in States

161. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: