

(c) if so, the details of quantity fixed and the quantum of sugar in the country as on end of July, 2011?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Sir, the Government has received requests from the State Government of Maharashtra and the industry associations for allowing further exports of sugar. In view of the adequate availability and stable prices of sugar in the domestic market, the Government has allowed the export of 5 lakh tons of sugar under Open General License (OGL) *vide* circular no. 3-3/2010-ES/180 dated 19.4.2011. Further, Government has approved export of additional 5th lakh tons of sugar under OGL on 28.6.2011. Beside this, the Government has also allowed the export of sugar under Advance License Authorisation (ALA). As on 10th August, 2011, release orders have already been issued for 19.71 lakh tons out of 21 lakh tons of exports allowed under ALA/AAS and OGL.

(c) the estimated availability of sugar as on 31.7.2011 is about 120 lakh tons.

CoS report on hundred per cent FDI in retail market

†1710. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee of Secretaries set up by Government has given its approval for the hundred per cent foreign capital investment in retail market of the country;

(b) if so, the names of the Committee's members along with the names of the departments they belong to;

(c) whether this Committee has also given report on the benefits of hundred percent foreign capital investment for the country;

(d) if so, the details of the benefits; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that Government has received reports of protest from different quarters against the foreign capital investment in retail market?

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Mixed responses have been received from different stakeholders and other quarters on the subject of Foreign Direct Investment in Multi-Brand Retail Trading.

Non-payment of dues to labourers by tea garden companies

†1711. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that companies operating more than hundred tea gardens in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Assam have vanished after their closure since 2000 to till date and 1,64,000 workers and 33,000 staff working there have not been paid their salary for old jobs along with other outstanding arrears;

(b) whether Supreme Court had directed the vanishing companies to make payment to the labourers or Government to make payments;

(c) if so, by when the payment would be made to the labourers; and

(d) by when the decision on acquiring the land of tea gardens will be taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. From 2007 onwards, all the gardens have been reopened and as on 1.08.11, only 4 gardens remained closed, two in Kerala and two in West Bengal. These four gardens are involved in protracted litigations.

(b) to (d) The Supreme Court vide its order dated 6th August, 2010 had directed the Central Government to carry out its statutory duties under the provisions of the Tea Act, 1953. All the gardens having since been reopened either by new promoters or erstwhile owners, the scope of invoking provisions of the Tea Act and handing over the garden management to others did not arise. The managements have entered into agreements with the concerned trade unions for settlement of labourers' dues in installments.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.