

INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): (a) and (b) India exports iron ore to Japan, South Korea and China. As far as sale price for export to Japan and South Korea is concerned, it is linked to quarterly international benchmark prices as per a Long Term Agreement finalised by India with these countries. The sale price of iron ore exported to China is on 'spot basis' which is finalised on transaction to transaction basis. Regarding import of steel, it is stated that steel sector has been de-regulated in the economy and the price and quantity of import of steel depends on global and domestic market conditions. As this is transaction between willing buyers and sellers, it is difficult to make comparisons.

India's country-wise iron ore export is as follows:

(Quantity in Million Tonnes, Value in Rs. Crore)									
2010-11			2011-12 (P)		2012-13 (P)		2013-14 (Apr-June) (P)		
Country	Qty.	Value (Est.)	Qty.	Value (Est.)	Qty.	Value (Est.)	Qty.	Value (Est.)	
China	89.73	38,001.11	57.73	31,764.63	15.85	9,030.78	1.96	NA	
Japan	5.45	2,371.50	2.45	1,219.49	2.16	1,132.27	0.49	NA	
S. Korea	1.46	582.12	1.02	639.74	0.14	78.53	-	NA	
Europe	0.67	211.11	0.38	233.29	0.19	113.87	-	NA	
Others	0.35	130.02	0.16	54.60	0.03	16.57	0.057	NA	
TOTAL	97.66	41,295.86	61.74	33,911.75	18.37	10,372.02	2.51	NA	

(c) As far as iron ore production is concerned, Government has increased export duty on iron ore to 30% *ad-valorem* w.e.f. 30.12.2011 and railway freight on iron ore movement for export purpose has also been increased to improve domestic availability of iron ore. As far as production of steel is concerned, basic customs duty on import of plants/equipment used in initial set up of iron ore pellets and iron ore beneficiation plants has been reduced to 2.5% from 7.5% in the general budget 2012-13.

FDI proposals cleared by FIPB

641. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:

SHRI SALIM ANSARI:

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

(a) the proposal-wise details of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposal cleared by Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) during the last one year;

(b) whether it is a fact that FDI into India has declined to 8-months low as on August, 2013, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve business environment in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): (a) Total 181 Foreign Direct Investment proposals have been approved by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) during April, 2012 to August, 2013.

(b) As per RBI data, FDI equity inflows in the month of August, 2013 are Rs. 8898.94 crores which is higher than inflows in March and June, 2013. However, in terms of US dollars the inflows in August, 2013 are at an 8-month low. FDI inflows are a matter of business decisions, taken by investors in their commercial interest.

(c) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy is reviewed on an ongoing basis, with a view to making it more investor friendly. Significant changes have been made in the FDI policy regime in the recent times, to ensure that India remains increasingly attractive and investor-friendly.

Government plays an active role in investment promotion, through dissemination of information on the investment climate and opportunities in India and by advising prospective investors about investment policies and procedures and opportunities.

The Government has also set up 'Invest India', a joint venture company between the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion and FICCI, as a not-for-profit, single window facilitator, for prospective overseas investors and to act as a structured mechanism to attract investment.

The Government of India, in partnership with various State Governments, has initiated the e-Biz Project, a Mission Mode project under the National e-Governance Project, to provide online registration and filing payment services, to investors and business houses.

Government has also put in place enabling policies like the National Manufacturing Policy and projects like the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor, in order to boost investment.