

maintain minimum quality levels of tea in India supporting the norms to sell tea in international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present, Tea Board issues the below mentioned certificates for an export consignment

- i. Clearance Certificate.
- ii. Certificate of Origin (in case of Darjeeling Tea Exports only at present).

A clearance certificate is generated online immediately after submission of the application/information pertaining to the consignment by the exporter. The Certificate of Origin is also issued by Tea Board on the same day/the very next day of submission of the application by the Darjeeling Tea exporters. Therefore, no delay in shipment occurs due to the issuance of the above certificates.

(c) Tea Board follows the parameters stipulated in the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to maintain the minimum quality level in Indian tea.

#### **Foreign investment proposals cleared by FIPB**

†1561. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of proposals approved by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) after the implementation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the retail sector;
- (b) the details of the sectors other than the retail sectors in which the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has approved the proposals so far; and
- (c) whether the pace of the inflow of foreign investment has been as per the expectations of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): (a) The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has approved about 76 proposals since the inception of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy on the retail sector, from February, 2006 and upto December, 2013.

(b) The major sectors, other than retail, in which the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has granted approvals so far are defence, broadcasting, print

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

media, civil aviation, asset reconstruction companies, banking, commodity exchanges, courier services, construction development, telecom services, non-banking financial services, and brownfield pharma.

(c) FDI is largely a function of private business decisions which in turn are based on a number of factors including the global economic situation and the business environment in the recipient country. Therefore, FDI inflows vary from year to year depending upon these factors.

#### **Extension of patent protection for medicines by EU**

1562. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether European Union (EU) is inclined to push in the area of medicines for extension of patent protection by another five years and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether such an attempt is to extend the sphere of patents and retain monopoly well past the normal time period granted under Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS); and

(c) if so, the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **FTAs signed by India**

1563. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Free Trade Agreements (FTA) signed between India and other countries;

(b) whether any study has been undertaken by Government on impact of the Free Trade Agreements on Indian economy, so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): (a) The details of countries with which India has entered into Free Trade Agreements (FTA) are given below: