

- II. A total of 74 Startups have been recognized to avail tax exemption under Section 80 IAC of Income Tax Act,
 - III. 975 applicants have received benefits under the Startups Intellectual Property Protection (SIPP) scheme,
 - IV. Startup India Hub has been established as a single point of contact for the entire Startup ecosystem to enable knowledge exchange and access to funding. So far, 15,000 users have registered on the Startup India Online Hub. The hub has resolved 75,643 queries pertaining to starting a business, access to incubation, raising funds, etc.
 - V. Learning and Development module of the Startup India program has been used by 1,89,000 individuals so far.
- (b) The details of expenditure incurred by DIPP under Startup India initiative are as under:
- I. Under the Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS):
 - (i) INR 500 crore has been released to SIDBI in Financial Year 2015-16 and INR 100 crore in Financial Year 2016-17
 - (ii) Total commitments under FFS by SIDBI are at INR 605.7 crore to 17 Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).
 - (iii) AIFs have drawn INR 90.62 crore from the FFS and have invested a total of INR 337.02 crore in 75 Startups.
 - II. The expenditure incurred by DIPP through different activities undertaken by DIPP for Startup India initiative is INR 2.7 crore in Financial Year 2015-16, INR 4.8 crore in Financial Year 2016-17 and INR 13.2 crore in Financial Year 2017-18.
- (c) Under DIPP recognized 5350 Startups atleast 40,000 people have been employed. The data about other Startups is not centrally compiled.

Pending FDI proposals

489. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of pending FDI proposals and the reasons therefor;
- (b) the details of FDI proposals that have been cleared since 2014, till date; and
- (c) the details of FDI proposals that have been rejected since 2014 till date, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Filing of FDI proposals and disposal thereof is a continuous process. Decisions on the FDI proposal are taken after completion of all the necessary documents. Further, investment by foreign companies in the country is guided by the FDI Policy. FDI in the country is permitted, subject to applicable laws/regulations; security and other conditionalities. Details of pending, cleared and rejected FDI proposals are as under:

No. of FDI proposals pending as on 15th November, 2017	54
No. of FDI proposals cleared (approved) since 2014, till date	503
No. of FDI proposals rejected since 2014 till date	196

Fall in Indian brand value

490. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian brand value has fallen in the international market, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the details of steps taken by Government to arrest this fall of Indian brand in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry is not aware of any fall in the Indian brand value in the international market.

(b) Does not arise.

Increase in imports

491. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India imported goods worth 19 billion US dollars in 2017 as compared to 13.5 billion US dollars in the previous year;

(b) whether the appreciation of the rupee allowed Indian importers to purchase larger quantities of goods at lower prices; and

(c) if so, what right steps are being taken by Government to encourage domestic industry so that it could generate income and jobs and reduce India's dependence on imports, giving boost to 'Make in India'?