

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No approval has been given under the Industrial Park Scheme to any undertaking for setting up of an Industrial Park in the States of North Eastern Region including Sikkim, so far.

(b) and (c) Under the Industrial Park Scheme, approval is provided to the developer of an Industrial Park to avail Income Tax benefit under Section 80-IA of Income Tax Act 1961. There is no provision of financial allocation under the Scheme.

Survey on impact of hike of cement price

2326. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted/propose to conduct any survey on the impact of the hike of cement price; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Promoting Brands of handloom by IBEF

2327. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sole aim of Indian Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF) which is managed by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is to promote the brands in handlooms, handicrafts, leather and horticulture sectors;

(b) whether it is also a fact that aims for which this foundation was established are not being achieved upto the mark; and

(c) the new guidelines issued by Government to the IBEF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Opposition to SEZs

†2328. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the policy of promoting Special Economic Zones and allotting the agricultural land to non-agricultural sector in different parts of the country is being strongly opposed;

† Original notice of tlp question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c), Representations regarding acquisition of land including agricultural land for setting up Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been received. However, land being a State subject, acquisition of land comes under the purview of the State Governments. Each State acquires land for various purposes under the provisions of State Policies and the Land Acquisition Act of 1894 as amended from time to time. The decision to earmark land of various types for different purposes is taken by the respective State Governments in accordance with the policies laid down by them. However, the State Governments have been advised that in case of land required for SEZs, first priority should be for waste and barren land and if necessary, single crop land could be considered. If perforce a portion of double cropped agricultural land has to be acquired to meet the minimum area requirements, especially for multi-product SEZs, the same should not exceed 10% of the total land required for the SEZs. Further, in pursuance of the decisions of the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) on SEZs at its meeting held on 5th April, 2007, the State Governments have been informed on 15th June, 2007 that the Board of Approval will not approve any SEZs where the State Governments have carried out or propose to carry out compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs after 5th April, 2007. A Group of Ministers under the Chairmanship of Minister of Agriculture has been constituted to consider revised Resettlement and Rehabilitation policy and amendments to the Land Acquisition Act.

Changes in policy regarding FDI in retail trade

2329. SHRI SHANTA RAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the present policy of Government as regards FDI in retail market;
- (b) whether any changes have been made in the policy after the same was initially announced;
- (c) the number of foreign companies engaged in retail trade in India;
- (d) the number of outlets opened, city-wise;
- (e) the total investments made;
- (f) the total number of persons employed;
- (g) the nature of resistance met locally by the management of outlets; and
- (h) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is not allowed in retail sector except in retail trade of 'Single Brand' products, where FDI up to 51% is allowed with prior Government approval subject to the following conditions: