

Central Team (IMCT), the High Level Committee (HLC) approved the additional assistance from National disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to ₹ 3048.39 crore to Kerala.

- (ii) Released the 1st installment of Central Share of SDRF amounting to ₹ 144.00 crore on 10th September, 2018 to Government of Karnataka for immediate relief measures. In addition, an amount of ₹ 525.22 crore released from NDRF on 11.12.2018 for management of floods/landslides of 2018.

(e) Coffee and Spices need a minimum of 3-4 years for economic yield after planting.

Attracting foreign investments

2293. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to put in place proper mechanisms including easy regulations and less paper work for global funds to invest in the country in the area of infrastructure;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Minister has held multiple meetings in recent months with several global sovereign wealth funds, insurance funds and pensions funds from countries like Japan, Australia, Canada, Singapore, South Korea, etc. to attract investment in our country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes. To boost foreign investment in infrastructure sector, Government has taken a number of steps which includes launching of innovative financial vehicles such as Infrastructure Debt Funds, Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs), Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), relaxation in External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) norms, mainstreaming of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) across infrastructure sectors, periodic review of Harmonized Master List of Infrastructure Sub-sectors, and establishment of the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).

Further, to enhance operational flexibility and provide easy access to Indian capital markets, Department of Economic Affairs, *vide* Gazette notification dated 21st August, 2018, has notified a Common Application Form for registration, opening of bank and Demat accounts, and issue of Permanent Account Number (PAN) for Foreign

Portfolio Investors (FPIs). This would benefit many global funds which intend to invest in the Indian capital markets as a FPI.

(b) and (c) With a view to attract foreign investments in various sectors of the country, meetings are held at various levels including at the level of Minister with domestic as well as foreign stakeholders on regular basis. No data regarding meeting is maintained.

Import of pulses

†2294. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and price of pulses imported by Government agencies during each of the last three years and the current year and whether these agencies have been provided subsidies for this purpose under this head; and

(b) the profits earned by the said agencies through such transactions during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Import of pulses by Government agencies like STC & MMTC during the last three years and the current year is as under:—

Year	Qty of Import in MT	Value in INR (crore approx.)
2015-16	24,500	182
2016-17	3,61,288	2309
2017-18	NIL	NIL
2018-19	NIL	NIL

(b) These agencies are entitled to service charge of 1.5% of CIF (Cost+Insurance+ Frieght) value.

Report of task force on e-Commerce policy

2295. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force set up to finalise the contours of the policy regarding 'e-Commerce' sector has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.