

(b) if so, the details of the foreign investors who have expressed their interest in it and the sectors wherein they are interested to invest;

(c) the details of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Government and foreign investors, along with the total amount of investment; and

(d) the benefits likely to be availed by the farmers through such investments and the number of jobs likely to be created in next few years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) to (d) Government has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the food processing sector through automatic route subject to applicable laws/sectoral rules/regulations/security conditions. Also, 100% FDI with Government approval for retail trading, including through e-commerce, is allowed for food products manufactured and/or produced in India. The Ministry organised a mega International event World Food India 2017 during 3-5 November, 2017 to, *inter alia*, attract investment including FDI. Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) of about USD 13.56 billion were signed with domestic and foreign investors. Fifty (50) MoUs were signed with domestic and foreign companies by the Government of India and 131 MoUs were signed by the States for food processing sector. The major companies which have signed MoUs are from various countries including USA, Germany, UAE, Thailand, Denmark and France. These investment intents are expected to give a major boost to setting up of food processing infrastructure, value chain, manufacturing facilities, etc. and, *inter alia*, act as a catalyst to boost agri-income and employment in the food processing sector.

Proposal to issue Notary licences

2666. DR. AMEE YAJNIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to issue Notary licences in near future;

(b) if so, the details of the progress made in this regard, UT and State-wise;

(c) the details about the final result to be declared so far; and

(d) the details about the time-frame for the completion of the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes Sir. The interviews are conducted for appointment of Notaries as per the provisions of the Notaries Act, 1952 and Notaries Rules, 1956 framed thereunder from time to time and for different States/UTs and it is an ongoing process.

(b) The details are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) All actions are taken as per procedure mentioned in the Notaries Act and Notaries Rules framed thereunder.

Statement

Number of Notaries appointed by Central Government

State/UT	Working as on date
Andaman and Nicobar	-
Andhra Pradesh	412
Arunachal Pradesh	-
Assam	15
Bihar	178
Chandigarh	98
Chhattisgarh	12
Delhi	548
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-
Daman and Diu	-
Goa	16
Gujarat	1682
Himachal Pradesh	4
Haryana	1099
Jharkhand	57
Jammu and Kashmir	-
Kerala	636
Karnataka	1130
Lakshadweep	-
Meghalaya	1
Maharashtra	2242
Manipur	-
Mizoram	-
Madhya Pradesh	74
Nagaland	-

State/UT	Working as on date
Odisha	80
Punjab	990
Puducherry	97
Rajasthan	1653
Sikkim	
Tamil Nadu	883
Tripura	19
Telangana	-
Uttar Pradesh	1838
Uttarakhand	53

Evening courts

2667. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the States in which evening courts are functioning at present;
- (b) the impact created by these courts so far;
- (c) whether there are plans to promote evening courts in other States; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) Setting up of subordinate courts (which *inter alia* includes evening courts) and their functioning fall within the domain of the State Governments who set up such courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with the respective High Courts.

After the conclusion of the tenure of the 13th Finance Commission and in accordance with the resolution passed in the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held in April, 2016, morning and evening courts have been discontinued in all States except four States (Delhi, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu).

It was resolved in the aforesaid Conference that the existing judicial infrastructure of the State judiciaries be utilized for setting up Morning/Evening or Holiday Courts, as the case may be, by utilizing the services of retired Judges. These courts may be constituted to deal with cases relating to petty offences, such as traffic cases and legal aid cases at the discretion of the High Court.