

Employment generation by FDI

326. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment of employment generated by Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of job opportunities created during each of the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No Sir, there is no central mechanism to collect data on employment generation by Foreign Direct Investment in the country.

Crisis facing cashew industry

327. SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government during the last four years regarding the cashew industry;

(b) whether Government is aware of the fact that cashew industry especially in Kerala is facing a major crisis leading to closure of many industries; and

(c) the action proposed by Government to solve the acute crisis of this industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The Government has taken several steps regarding the cashew industry during the last four years:—

- Basic Custom Duty on import of raw cashew nut has been reduced from 5% to 2.5% w.e.f. 01.02.2018.
- Goods and Service Tax (GST) has been reduced to 5% from 12% for Cashew nuts.
- Under Mid-Term Review of Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), Merchandise Export Incentive Scheme (MEIS) for cashew was increased to 5% (from 3%) for cashew kernel and 7% (from 5%) for cashew nut salted/roasted respectively.
- Revised Standard Inputs Output Norms (SION) for export of Cashew Kernel, from import of Raw Cashew Nut under Advance Authorization Scheme and

allowed 1 kg kernel from 5.04 kg. of raw cashew nuts as against earlier norm of 1 kg. from 4 kg. of raw cashew nut.

- Approved Medium Term Framework (2017-20) Scheme for Process Mechanization and Automation of Cashew Processing Units. A sum of ₹4.00 crore has been released to Cashew Export Promotion Council during 2017-18 as grant-in-aid under MTF (2017-20).
- Duty free import of raw cashew nuts is allowed under Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme from Least Developed Countries (LDCs).
- Market Access Initiative (MAI) scheme is specially designed by the Department of Commerce in order to tap new market and Brand India presence in the Global market. CEPCI was released a sum of ₹ 2.23 crore under MAI Scheme.
- Under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare (MoAFW) has drawn up strategies to increase domestic production by massive area expansion of cashew and replacing of senile cashew plantations with high yielding varieties in traditional and non-traditional States. Some of the key initiatives are new plantation development programme, replanting programme of cashew, technology dissemination and transfer of technology programme etc.

(b) and (c) Cashew Industry in India has seen a positive growth in the production of raw cashew nuts and export of cashew kernel. Production of Raw Cashew nut during 2017-18 has registered 4.83 % increase to 8,17,045 Metric Tons as compared to production of 7,79,335 Metric Tons during 2016-17 and 21.89% increase compared to the production of 6,70,300 Metric Tons during 2015-16. Similarly, the export earnings from cashew and allied products during the year 2017-18 has reached at ₹5903.60 crore (USD 916 million) registering a growth of 13.25% (in rupees terms) over the last year export of ₹5,212.78 crore (US\$ 778 Million).

Closure of factories can be attributed to a variety of factors like increased wage cost, default in repayment of loans, lack of proper management, domestic and international demand-supply situation, etc. The Department of Commerce does not have any scheme for re-opening of closed industries.

Efforts made by the Government have produced significant growth in production of raw cashew nut as mentioned above.