

September 2012 roadmap worked out between the Commerce Secretaries of both countries. No bilateral trade meeting between India and Pakistan has taken place since then. However, issues adversely affecting Indian exports have been taken up with Pakistan through diplomatic channel.

The Government has also taken various steps for improving bilateral trade with other SAARC countries. Efforts have been made to improve the trade infrastructure which, *inter-alia*, include upgradation of Land Customs Stations, establishment of Integrated Check Posts, establishment of Border Haats, facilitation of bilateral and sub-regional connectivity, etc. The Government also continues to engage pro-actively with SAARC countries to strengthen trade and economic relations. Bilateral and multilateral trade discussions, held with these countries from time to time, explore mechanisms for enhancement of trade. Further, assistance is provided under Market Access Initiative scheme to Indian exporters, Export Promotion Councils, apex trade bodies etc., for enhancing exports through participation in events in foreign countries, including SAARC countries.

#### **Fluctuation in FDI inflow**

1125. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there is a fluctuation in FDI inflow, which has become a matter of great concern;
- (b) if so, the details of FDI inflow since 2014;
- (c) whether Government proposes to take any steps to increase the FDI inflow;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) There has been unprecedented increase in FDI inflows in the country since 2014-15. It has increased from USD 45.15 billion in 2014-15 to USD 60.97 billion in 2017-18. The financial year wise details of FDI inflow, since 2014, are as under:—

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Total FDI Inflow (in USD billion)
1.	2014-15	45.15
2.	2015-16	55.56
3.	2016-17 (P)	60.22
4.	2017-18 (P)	60.97

(P) - Provisional.

(c) and (d) To promote Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), the Government has put in place an investor-friendly policy, wherein except for a small negative list, most sectors are open for 100% FDI under the Automatic route. The policy on FDI is reviewed on an ongoing basis, to ensure that India remains an attractive and investor friendly destination. Changes are made in the policy after having intensive consultations with stakeholders including apex industry chambers, associations, representatives of industries/groups and other organizations taking into consideration their views/comments. Further, FDI is largely a matter of private business decisions. FDI inflows depend on a host of factors such as availability of natural resource, market size, infrastructure, political and general investment climate as well as macro-economic stability and investment decision of foreign investors.

(e) In view of the above, does not arise.

#### **Reservation in private sector**

1126. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Coordination Committee for Affirmative Action for SC and ST in the private sector has made specific recommendation/suggestion regarding reservation in the private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The Coordination Committee on Affirmative Action for SC and ST in the Private Sector has decided that the best course for achieving progress on the issue of affirmative action is through voluntary action by