

from 1.8.91 to 31.05.96 envisaging foreign direct investment of Rs. 109.17 crores in the State of Kerala.

The details of such proposals viz. name of the Indian company, name and country of foreign collaborator, equity investment involved, item of manufacture/activity are published by the Indian Investment Centre as a supplement to the Monthly Newsletter and copies of these are regularly supplied to the Parliament Library.

Prohibition in States

2055. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY :
SHRI L. RAMANA :
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI
CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the States which have imposed prohibition:

(b) whether the Union Government have provided financial assistance to these States to make up the loss on account of the prohibition:

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last two years and current year, so far, State-wise:

(d) whether some of the above States have also levied heavy taxes on various areas to make-up the loss:

(e) if so, its impact on the common man.

(f) whether the Union Government propose to direct such State Governments to reconsider their decision of imposing heavy taxes; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Prohibition being a State subject, information in this regard has to be collected from States, and shall be furnished later.

(b) and (c). The Government of India have no scheme at present to provide financial assistance to States to make up the loss on account of prohibition.

(d) to (g) The States levy taxes depending upon the need to raise resources and looking to the general economic environment. It is difficult to say whether any tax has been imposed or enhanced to make up for the loss on account of imposition of prohibition. It is not possible for Government of India to judge whether a particular tax is heavy or not. Since the States are autonomous, it will not be proper for the Government of India to interfere in their legislative competence to levy tax.

Export of Basmati Rice

2056. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any decline in the export of basmati rice:

(b) if so, the percentage of decline in basmati rice exports and in the foreign exchange earnings as a result thereof during 1995 and 1996:

(c) the main reasons for its steep decline in exports: and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to boost the exports of basmati rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b). The quantity and value of basmati rice exported during the last three years and the percentage change in exports both in quantity and value terms over the corresponding period of the previous year(s) is as under:

Year	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs.) Crores)	% Change over the corresponding period of previous year in	
			Quantity Terms	Value Terms
1993-94	527233	1061.27	-	-
1994-95	442125	865.32	(-)16.14	(-)18.46
1995-96	392258	851.16	(-)11.27	(-)1.63
1996-97 (APRIL'96)	57260	119.65	49.41	25.80
APRIL'95	38322	88.77		

(c) The fall in exports of basmati rice occurred due to depressed demand in the importing countries and high domestic prices.

(d) Some of the measures taken to promote export of rice include, inter-alia conducting publicity campaigns, delegations abroad, participating in International Trade Fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products and for conducting market surveys.

Regulatory Authority for Insurance Sector

2057. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory Authority has since started functioning:

(b) if so, the details of its scope and terms of office: and

(c) the particulars of its Chairman, Members and also the officials working at present on deputation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Govt. has set up an interim Insurance