

(e) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of bidi workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND HOLDING ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGAMA):

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. Some Organisations of bidi and tobacco workers have represented against the introduction of the proposed legislation which envisages ban on advertising, control over use and sale of tobacco products at certain places and warning about the harmful effect of tobacco on health.

(c) to (e): No, Sir. It is felt that the proposed legislation may not significantly affect the employment situation in beedi industry for the present.

[Translation]

Contract for Hotel Accommodation

2677. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India had awarded the contract for providing lodging facility in Rome for a period of one year w.e.f. April 1, 1992;

(b) whether the contract was awarded to the lowest bidder;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the amount of loss suffered as a result thereof; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the Erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The facilities offered by the two hotels whose bids were lower were not found suitable for crew accommodation. The contract was therefore given to Holiday Inn, the third lowest bidder. Extra expenditure incurred on this account cannot be treated as a loss.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Foreign Investment

2678. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to attract the entry of multinationals and foreign investment in the country on large scale;

(b) whether the Government have also taken steps for raising resources from within the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) To promote foreign investment Government have taken a number of steps which include:

(i) Abolition of industrial licensing, removal of restrictions on investments under the MRTP Act, liberalisation of policy and procedures for transfer of foreign technology, import of capital goods and raw materials etc.

(ii) Existing companies are being allowed to increase the level of foreign equity. The procedure for approving fresh proposal for foreign investment has also been streamlined.

(iii) The general condition of dividend balancing has been withdrawn except for industries in the consumer goods sector;

(iv) Disinvestment of equity by foreign investors has been allowed at the market rates on the stock exchanges.

(v) India has signed the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency Protocol for the protection of foreign investments. Also Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements are being negotiated with a number of countries.

(vi) Provisions of FERA have been liberalised as a result of which companies with more than 40% foreign equity can operate like any other Indian company.

(vii) Foreign companies are allowed to use their trade marks for domestic sales.

(viii) Foreign institutional Investors (FIIs) have been allowed to investors in the securities traded on the Primary and Secondary market provided they register with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

(b) and (c) For mobilisation of resources from the domestic capital market, Government have also initiated a capital market liberalisation process. As part of this process, statutory powers have been vested with SEBI including the power to frame and to operationalise comprehensive rules and regulation governing various aspects of stock markets and intermediaries to improve trading practices, rules for disclosures, measures for investor protection, a take over code, norms for preferential allocation including pricing etc.

[Translation]

NTC Showrooms

2679. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open National Textiles Corporation's showrooms in those districts of the states where these have not been set up so far;

(b) if so, the places where such showrooms are