

(b) whether Government propose to grant licences for lesser areas for cultivation of opium in future; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps likely to be taken in this regard during the next five years alongwith the impact of it on the cultivation of opium in Mandisor district of Madhya Pradesh in the coming years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) Opium poppy is at present being cultivated in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, on account of Central Government. Particulars of area under cultivation, quantity of opium produced, exported and value thereof, during the last three years are given below :

Crop Year	Area licensed (Hectares)	Opium produced (at 70° C) (Metric Tonnes)	Quantity exported (Metric Tonnes)	Value (Rs. in crores)
				(Financial Year)
1985-86	24,361	878	802	24.29
1989-87	23,336	866	642	25.50
1987-88	21,761	723	466*	18.80

*(Provisional)

The quantity consumed for domestic purposes differs from year to year and presently, it is 100 M.Ts. per year approximately. Besides, a small quantity of opium in the form of medicinal cake and powder is also consumed for making medicinal preparations, etc.

(b) and (c). Production of opium in the country is mainly for export. In view of the huge stocks of opium with Government factories and fall in exports, a steep cut in the area or even stopping of opium production for sometime is called for. However, having regard to the likely socio-economic hardships that might be caused by such a drastic step, Government have been constrained to effect gradual reduction in the area under cultivation. Such reduction is effected by various methods like percentage cuts, increasing qualifying yield, and fixing the maximum size of the land holding per cultivator for licence for poppy cultivation. As the area to be licensed each year is to be determined having regard to various factors at the relevant period of time, it is not possible to give details of the programme for the next five years. However, it has been the policy of the Govern-

ment to allow uniform criteria in licensing the area under poppy cultivation in all the traditional poppy growing areas.

[English]

Foreign Investment

1578. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of additional direct foreign investment in the country during last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to take steps for raising the annual level of such investment;

(c) whether in this context, Government are considering allowing equity participation by foreign capital upto 25 per cent or even higher subject to specific conditions;

(d) whether the terms of direct foreign investment are likely to be relaxed only in certain specified fields; and

(e) if so, the brief particulars of the fields of economic activity in which liberalisation may be allowed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) The following approvals for Direct Foreign Investment has been given in last 3 years :

Year	Rs. in crores
1985	Rs. 126.07 crores
1986	Rs. 106.95 croree
1987	Rs. 107.71 crores

(b) to (e). The basic frame-work of our foreign investment policy is laid down in various documents including the Industrial Policy Resolution, Although it is not an open door policy, it has a substantial degree of flexibility. It permits technical as well as financial collaborations over a wide range of industrial activities. It is the intention of the Government to promote more direct foreign investment within the broad frame-work of this policy. Such equity participation is already permissible upto 40% and even more. Equity participation of more than 40% is already permissible for industries involving sophisticated technology or export oriented industries.

[*Translation*]

Increase in Yarn Price

1579. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :
SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to a Government proposal to increase the prices of yarn, there is discontentment among the weavers working in handloom industry in Tamil Nadu and they have threatend to go on strike;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the prices of yarn;

(d) if so, to what extent and the reasons for increasing the prices thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to avert the strike ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). The State Government of Tamil Nadu has reported that the strike notice, earlier issued by Handloom Weavers' Associations has been withdrawn following the fixation of a negotiated rate for supply of yarn to Handloom Associations under the State Government's "Yarn for Power" scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Proposal to make Election Commission a Multi-Member Body

1580. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :
DR. SUDHIR ROY :
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :
SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :
SHRI ANIL BASU :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :
SHRI SURESH KURUP :
SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI :
SHRIMATI MANORAMA SINGH :
SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered a proposal to make the Election Commission a multi-member body instead of a single member body;

(b) if so, whether Government agree to implement this proposal;

(c) if so, the time by which the above proposal will be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not accepting the proposal ?