

Foundry Industry

498. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Foundry Industry is gripped with problem like obsolete technology, lack of skilled manpower, power shortage and non-availability of raw materials;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Foundry Industry in India have geared up technologically and are using both state of art as well as conventional technology. Further, there is no shortage of skilled manpower or of raw materials for the foundry industries in the country. National level institutions like: The National Institute of Foundry & Forge Technology (NIFFT), Ranchi, Process & Product Development Centre for Foundry and Forging Technology; Agra & SITARC Pump Institute, Coimbatore are engaged in the development of skilled manpower. As regards power shortage of Foundries, Govt. has not received any complaints in this regard. In order to improve the availability of power, Central Govt. is actively engaged in formulating a power policy.

Decline in FDI

499. SHRI P. SANKARAN :
SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJI BHAI CHAUDHARI.

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Foreign Direct Investment has declined and has not been used upto the optimum extent during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the quantum of Foreign Direct Investment made during the last three years and expected during 1998-99;

(c) whether the Government propose to take any steps to boost foreign investment in the country and its proper utilisation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) The total amount of Foreign Direct Investment approved for the last 3 years i.e. 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 (upto March) is as follows :

Year	Proposals Approved	Total FDI Amount (In Crores)
1	2	3

1	2	3
1996	1559	36146.81
1997	1665	54891.35
1998 (upto 31st March)	298	8187.61

The details of such proposals viz. name and country of Foreign Collaborator, percentage of equity, items of manufacture/activity are published on a monthly basis in SIA Newsletter which is widely circulated, including the Parliament Library.

(c) to (e) Government has already expanded the list of high priority industries by inclusion of more industries eligible for automatic approval upto 50%, 51% and 74% foreign equity.

To make foreign direct investment policy more transparent, guidelines for consideration of foreign direct investment proposals by FIPB have been notified.

- It is the endeavour of the Government to constantly review the foreign investment policy so as to make it increasingly competitive and investor friendly.

FERA Violation

500 SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has studied the matter relating to violation of FERA by the Urban Affairs and Employment Minister.

(b) if so, whether the ED has completed its study;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (d) Consequent to appearance of certain reports in the press, the Enforcement Directorate has taken up for initial verification, the issue relating to the alleged violations of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 by the Urban Affairs and Employment Minister.

[Translation]

Mahboob Dhahi Kalaburgi Mills

501. SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) since when the Mahboob Dhahi Kalaburgi Mills,

Gulbarga (Karnataka) is closed and the number of employees of different categories affected as a result thereof;

(b) whether the Government is providing the pay and other facilities to the employees; and

(c) the scheme of the Government to revive the said mill as this is the only mill located in the backward area of Hyderabad and Karnataka region and the time by which the said mill is likely to be started again after removing all the obstacles?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) The MSK Mills, Gulbarga has not been closed. There is presently only cessation of activities in the mill. The workers and employees numbering 907 in this mill are being paid idle wages.

(c) On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable mills of NTC, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the net worth of these mills turning positive, within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

[English]

Development of Handicrafts

502. SHRI K. P. NAIDU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed recently the ongoing programmes and schemes formulated for promotion and development of handicrafts in the selected areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the funds allocated and provided for upgradation of skills of traditional artisans and craftsmen during 1997-98, state-wise;

(d) the details of the new schemes taken up/proposed to be formulated for upgradation of skills of artisans and craftsmen through institutional support; and

(e) the other steps taken for promotion of traditional handicrafts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However the review is for the entire country. The programmes and schemes reviewed include: training; survey & studies; marketing development programme; setting of craft development centres; opening of new emporia and renovation/expansion of existing emporia; workshop-cum-housing; group insurance; common facility centre; health package and member education programme.

(c) State-wise funds are not allocated in the handicrafts

sectors. The funds provided for upgradation of skills of artisans including traditional artisans during 1997-98, state-wise is as per statement attached.

(d) The details of new schemes taken up/proposed for upgrading the skill of artisans through institutional support include: training for trainers; supply of modern tools and equipment; and member education programme.

(e) The other steps taken for promotion of traditional handicrafts of the country by the Government include survey and studies; design development; setting up of crafts development centres; opening of new emporia and renovation/ expansion of existing emporia; setting up of common facility centres.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Amount provided (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.34
2.	Assam	27.71
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.06
4.	Bihar	12.48
5.	Gujarat	7.70
6.	Goa	2.26
7.	Haryana	3.61
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1.20
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.13
10.	Karnataka	23.68
11.	Madhya Pradesh	17.73
12.	Maharashtra	13.21
13.	Manipur	11.71
14.	Meghalaya	0.30
15.	Mizoram	-
16.	Nagaland	8.18
17.	Orissa	15.15
18.	Punjab	3.30
19.	Kerala	12.18
20.	Rajasthan	1.03
21.	Sikkim	9.68
22.	Tamil Nadu	12.69
23.	Tripura	- 12.76