

The New Industrial Policy for the North Eastern Region provides for central assistance of Rs. 15 crores towards each growth centre. The progress made in respect of the approved growth centres upto 31st March, 1998 is as under:

Name of the Growth centre	Central Releases (Rs. in lakhs)	State Release	Total expenditure
Char-Duar	50.00	05.00	17.00
Matia	50.00	NIL	15.00

#### Import Duty on Rubber

507. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposed to raise the import duty on rubber;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other measures taken by the Union Government to control the import of rubber?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The Question seeks information pertaining to the Union Budget which is likely to be presented in the Parliament on 1.6.98.

(c) Import of Rubber is already under Negative List of Exim Policy and is permitted only against Advance Licence/Special Import Licence.

#### Foreign Direct Investment

508. SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of the Foreign Direct Investments cover the annual investments in the Indian economy during each of the last six years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : The details of Foreign Direct Investments received during last six years are as follows:

Year	Foreign Direct Investment received (in US \$ Million)
1991-92	135
1992-93	313
1993-94	586
1994-95	1314
1995-96	1929
1996-97	2587

#### Violation of FERA, 1973

509. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a constant increase in the cases of violation of FERA, 1973 during the last some years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has announced some concessions in FERA, 1973, recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount involved in such cases of violation, the number of persons found guilty and the action taken by the Government against them?

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) and (b) No, Sir. However the number of cases taken up for investigation by the Enforcement Directorate during the last three years are as under :

Year	Number of cases
1995	5633
1996	5486
1997	5577

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### Gratuity Limitation

510. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gratuity amount of the Government employees has been raised from Rs. 1 lakhs to Rs.2.50 lakhs w.e.f. 1st April, 1995 and wheter it is also a fact that prior to 1st April, 1995 the gratuity limit for the public sector employees was same as had been fixed for the Government employees;

(b) if so, the reasons for not maintaining equality in regard to gratuity limit; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that the employees of the public sector undertaking likely to get enhanced gratuity from April, 1995 like that of the Government employees?