

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the recent Global Indian Entrepreneurs Conference held at New Delhi on 12-13 November, 1998, it was decided to set up a suitable mechanism—a forum—in the Government for effective on going consultations with NRIs which would inter-alia involve the restructuring of the Indian Investment Centre so as to address the investment concerns of NRIs in a more effective and focussed manner. At present, we already have a separate cell in the SIA to deal with investment proposals of NRIs/OCBs.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Proposal envisaging NRI investment of Rs.743356.04 million have been approved from 1991 to September, 1998. There is actual inflow of NRI investment to the extent of Rs.73844.70 lakhs during the period. The country has also received investment of US \$ 4.16 billion from NRIs through Resurgent Indian Bond issued by the State Bank of India in 1998.

International Coffee Organisation

2100. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is facing an uphill task to get deal for the negotiations for a fresh agreement at the International Coffee Organisation; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Advisory Council on Trade and Industry

2101. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to, state :

(a) whether during the month of September, 1998, the Prime Minister had addressed the first meeting of the Advisory Council on Trade and Industry;

(b) if so, whether any decision in regard to trade and industry has been taken in that first meeting;

(c) if so, whether any concrete action plan has been prepared and agreed;

(d) if so, whether the Advisory Council has submitted its recommendations to the Government; and

(e) if so, the time by which a final decision for implementing the recommendations is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following decisions were taken:-

Six Special Subject Groups in the nature of Task Forces were constituted to consider and recommend implementable Actions Plans in the following areas :

- (i) Food & Agro Industries Management Policy
- (ii) Infrastructure
- (iii) Capital Markets and Financial Sector Initiatives
- (iv) Knowledge-based Industries
- (v) Service Industries
- (vi) Administrative and Legal Simplifications.

(c) The Special Subject Groups will interact with the concerned Ministries/Departments, who will provide all necessary assistance and data to them. The interaction of the Groups with the concerned Ministries/Departments will be facilitated by the PMO, with officials from concerned Ministries/Departments and external experts to be co-opted as necessary. The Groups will finalise their Action Plans as per prescribe schedule, for the consideration of their reports in the subsequent deliberations of the Council.

(d) and (e) The Six Special Subject Groups have since submitted their reports. The next meeting of the Council on Trade and Industry will be held shortly.

[English]

World Bank Loan to Andhra Pradesh for Development

2102. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA :
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has submitted any requests seeking World Bank Loan for the development of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the requests of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) There are a number of proposed projects for World Bank assistance to the State of Andhra Pradesh. Some of these are AP District poverty initiative project, AP power sector reform & restructuring project and Integrated rural water supply & environmental sanitation project. These projects are at various stages of discussion between the World Bank, State Government and Government of India to finalise the same. Besides, the AP economic restructuring project, for a possible assistance of US \$ 543.30 million consisting of US \$ 242 million from IDA and US \$ 301.30 million from IBRD has already been negotiated and is likely to be signed shortly.