

1	2
Tamilnadu	2809
Tripura	887
Uttar Pradesh	4195
West Bangal	3698
Not Specified	2986
All India	57512

[English]

**Export of Onion and Potato**

2576. SHRI RAMACHANDRA VEERAPPA :  
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of onion and potato exported after lifting the ban on export of onion and potato recently; and

(b) the foreign exchange earned through its export during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMRCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Restrictions on export of potatoes were removed on 22nd January, 1999 and ban on export of onion was partially lifted on 1st February, 1999 and again further relaxed on 12th February, 1999. Since there is a gap of at least four months in the availability of figures of export from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta after the exports are effected, figures of export of potatoes and onions made in January and February, 1999 are not available. However, as per details available from NAFED and Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB), No Objection Certificates (NOCs) have been issued for the export of onion as given below :

(As on 4.3.1999)

	Qty (MTs)	FOB value (Rs lakhs)
I. NAFED		
i. Krishnapuram & Bangalore Rose onion	11045	1932.0
ii. Export to Sri Lanka	750	61.84
II MSAMB	25,000 MTs	-

**Export of Vegetable Fats**

2577. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether export of vegetable fats is in jeopardy as some of the European Countries have banned their use in chocolate manufacturing;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reason therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Some member states of the European Union namely Belgium France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands and Spain are not permitting use of vegetable fats in chocolate manufacturing on account of quality concerns due to differing national attitudes of what the consumer wants.

(c) The concerns of India are made known to the respective Governments through our Missions abroad whenever standards established have a detrimental effect on our exports.

**Private Banks**

2578. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring the private banks under the investigative jurisdiction of the Central Vigilance Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to order CBI for conducting inquiry into the misdeeds of private banks; and

(d) if not, the manner in which the Government propose to discipline the private banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FIINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Private Sector Banks are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.

[Transaltion]

**Rules of Speedy Automatic Clearance to Projects**

2579. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :  
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :  
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :  
 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :  
 SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :  
 SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an extraordinary delay is made in sanctioning the proposals of foreign direct investment;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate rules for accordng speedy automatic clearance to the projects of all sectors;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which the above rules are proposed to be finalised;

(f) the extent to which it is likely to help the investors; and

(g) the details of cases found violation of rules, received and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (g) Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has been following 6 weeks time frame for disposal of FDI proposals. In the budget speech a time frame of 30 days has been stipulated. Majority of the FDI proposals are disposed of within the time frame except in case of the proposals where the sectoral policy has not been clearly defined. Govt. has been expanding the list of the industries in Annexure-III qualifying for automatic approvals. Recently Govt. has allowed 100% FDI under automatic route in power sector for electric generation, transmission and distribution as also roads and highways, ports and harbours and vehicular tunnels and bridges provided foreign equity does not exceed Rs. 1500 crore.

[English]

#### **.Diamonds Stolen from Custom House**

2580. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the diamonds worth over Rs. 60 lakhs meant for auction were stolen from the Customs House strongroom in Mumbai in June, 1998;

(b) if so, whether some persons have been arrested in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken 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) Yes Sir. A case of substitution of certain costlier varieties of diamonds-by inferior varieties, differential value estimated over Rs. 60 lakhs, while lying in the Custom House strong room at Mumbai has come to light as a result of investigations initiated on receipt of an information in June, 1998. Exact period of substitution is not yet known.

(b) and (c) Based upon the findings of preliminary investigations two Customs Officers-a Superintendent and a Preventive Officer, who were the custodians of the strong room at relevant time were placed under immediate suspension. The case was handed over to the Crime Branch of the Mumbai Police in August, '98 who during the course of investigations arrested the suspected Custodians in November, 1998 for their prima-facie involvement in the substitution of diamonds. The investigations are still under progress. Appropriate stringent penal action will be taken against the Departmental officers and outsiders found involved in the criminal misappropriation of Government property, on completion of investigations.

[Translation]

#### **Setting up Industries with Foreign Investment**

2581. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL :  
 SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :  
 SHRI MADAN PATIL :  
 SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals from abroad for setting up of industries in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of proposals cleared so far, State-wise;

(d) the number of foreign or joint venture industries with foreign participation set up in the country during the last three years, sector-wise and State-wise;

(e) the number of local people employed therein;

(f) whether any survey has been conducted by a foreign company regarding possibility of setting up of industries in some particular area; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (g) Sir, details of Sector-wise and State-wise number of foreign or joint venture proposals cleared by Foreign Investment Promotion Board during the last three years are at Statements I and II respectively.