

foreign investment in the infrastructure sector. FDI policy relating to infrastructure sector inter alia provides for FDI up to 100% in power projects (generation, transmission and distribution) under the automatic approval route subject to a foreign equity cap of Rs. 1500 crore; in basic and value added telecom services, FDI is limited to 49% subject to grant of licence by the Deptt. of Telecommunications (no limit on foreign equity in the manufacturing sector); foreign equity up to 100% allowed for ports on build, operate and transfer basis; and FDI upto 49% in petroleum refining, up to 51% in petroleum product pipeline sector and up to 74% in infrastructure related to marketing of petroleum products.

[English]

Bee Keeping by KVIC

3493. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BAINDA :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on bee keeping by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission and other such agencies during the years 1996 and 1997;

(b) whether any survey has been carried out on the protection of bee keeping industry in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) The disbursements made by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission on bee keeping activities during 1996 and 1997 are given below :

| (Rs. in lakhs) | | | |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Year | Grant | Loan | Total |
| 1996-97 | 40.02 | 47.20 | 87.22 |
| 1997-98 | 6.66 | 4.26 | 10.92 |

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Surveys have been undertaken by Central Bee Research and Training Institute, Pune in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra to identify Bee diseases and to combat them. Studies were also undertaken in Kerala and Tamil Nadu to ascertain the adaptability of 'Apis Mellifera' Bee Colonies which are not natives of India.

Development of Tourism in Karnataka

3494. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka regarding financial assistance for the development of Mulabagilli and Chikkaturupati as tourist spots in the State to attract tourists; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) No proposal has been received from the State Government regarding financial assistance for the development of Mulabagilli and Chikkaturupati as tourist spots.

(b) Does not arise.

Growth of Export to EU

3495. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry is aiming for a 20% growth in exports to the nations of European Union;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to hold talks with these countries at ministerial and official levels including commerce representatives attached with Indian diplomatic missions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government is aiming for a 20% growth in exports.

Government regularly holds bilateral interaction both at ministerial and at official levels. A meeting of the Commercial representatives attached with select Indian diplomatic Missions in Europe was held in May 1998 in London and it was identified that the 20% export growth was within the realms of possibility, given the inherent strengths of Indian products in certain established areas and the potential that exists in non-traditional areas.

A suitable promotional campaign with special emphasis on thrust commodities is being undertaken with the active involvement of the Indian commercial representatives located in European Union countries and Indian exporters Joint Commission meeting and working consultation at bilateral level are also proposed to pursue greater market access in these countries.

Decline in Export of Hosiery Products

3496. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed and the achievements made in the export of hosiery products during the last three years, year-wise;