

(c)(i) Upto seventy four percent (74%) foreign equity participation will be permissible in both pure value addition and integrated projects, provided the level of value addition is the maximum according to the prevailing international Standards/levels of value addition to the products of mining and mineral separation of beach sand minerals.

(c)(ii) For pure addition projects as well as integrated projects with value addition upto any intermediate stage foreign equity participation would be permitted upto seventy four per cent (74%) through the instrument of joint venture company(ies) with Central/State PSUs such that the independent equity holding or at least one PSU is not less than twenty six per cent (26%) of the total equity.

(c)(iii) In exceptional cases where foreign equity participation above seventy four per cent (74%) is unavoidable, approval will be subject to the clearance of the Atomic Energy Commission.

(d) If Monazite is produced in the process of exploration of beach sand minerals, such monazite shall be disposed of by the entity concerned, at its cost, in accordance with directions/directives of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board or any person/body authorised by the competent authority in accordance with the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act and the Rules and Order thereunder.

(e) The provisions of the Atomic Energy Act and the Rules and Orders thereunder will continue to apply to the exploitation of beach sands minerals are notified as prescribed substances and require licensing under the said provisions. The mining leases under the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act will continue to be granted by the State Government(s) concerned.

(f) All cases of foreign direct investment in activities relating to exploitation of beach sand minerals, whether or not such minerals per se are notified as prescribed substances under the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act, will continue to be processed for approval and regulated in accordance with all other guidelines, norms, stipulations etc., of the Central Government (Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Finance, etc.,) and the Reserve Bank of India, to the extent that these other guidelines, etc., are not inconsistent with the guidelines detailed in this policy.

### Employment Scheme

1221. SHRI S.S. OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to involve or seek States' participation in framing different employment scheme:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of employment opportunities created in organized sector during the last three years and by the month of October in 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) States are involved in framing employment policies and programmes.

(c) Employment in organised sector as of 31st March in the years 1995,1996 and 1997 is 27.53 million, 27.94 million and 28.25 million respectively. The latest data on organised sector employment, which is released by Director General of Employment and Training, pertains to the year 1997.

[Translation]

### Cultural Agreements

1222. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries with whom trade and cultural agreements have been signed during the year 1998-99; and

(b) the details of the exchange programmes likely to be implemented thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b). The following trade and cultural agreements were signed during the year 1998-99:—

#### Slovenia

A protocol at the conclusion of the 3rd Joint Session of the Slovenia-India Joint Committee and the Third meeting of the Slovenia-India Joint Business Council was signed in May, 1998.