

establishment and upto 30.6.1998, 3241 references from sick industrial companies were received under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act 1985. 2254 cases were registered by BIFR out of which 1683 cases have been disposed off.

- (b) No, Sir.  
(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### **Participation of Private Sector in Tourism**

\*548. SHRI A.C. JOS:

SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Tourism Policy with a thrust to encourage participation of private sector and better co-ordination between various connected Ministries has been mooted by the Government;

(b) If so, the total flow of foreign tourists into the country during the year 1997 and during the first six months of the current year;

(c) whether with better co-ordination and provision of more facilities, more and more tourists are likely to be attracted to India; and

(d) If so, the steps being taken by the Government to provide better facilities to the foreign tourists in India?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The foreign tourist arrivals into the country during 1997 were 2.37 million and during the first six months of the current year were 1.14 million.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The steps being taken by the Government to provide better facilities to foreign tourists in India include improvement of the Infrastructural Facilities, product Development, Effective Marketing better facilitation and Human Resources Development.

#### **Agricultural Export Policy**

\*549. SHRI K. P. NAIDU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of long term agricultural export policy of the country; and

(b) the list of high priority sectors which qualify for automatic approval by the Foreign Investment Board for Foreign Equity upto 51%?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The policy of the government regarding exports of agricultural products is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximising farm incomes and earning foreign exchange. Export regime in respect of agri-

cultural products has been liberalised. Very few items are now either prohibited for exports or their exports are restricted or are subject to quantitative ceilings. Major items for which the exports are banned include wheat and wheat products and sugar except under preferential quota to the EU/USA.

(b) The list of high priority sectors in the area of agricultural production, plantations and manufacture of food products, which qualify for automatic approval by the Foreign Investment Board for Foreign Equity upto 51% is given below:

**Agricultural Production:** Agricultural production not elsewhere classified (n.e.c); Certified high yielding hybrid seeds and synthetic seeds.

**Plantations:** Plantation n.e.c.; Certified high yielding plantations developed through plant tissue culture.

**Manufacture of Food Products:** Preparation and preservation of meat; Preservation of meats except by canning; Processing and canning of meat; Manufacture of dairy products; Manufacture of milk powder, ice-cream, powder and condensed milk except baby milk foods; Manufacture of baby milk foods; Manufacture of butter, cream, ghee, cheese and Khoya etc; Manufacture of pasteurised milk whether or not in bottles/polythene packs etc. (plain or flavoured); Manufacture of other dairy products n.e.c.; Canning and preservation of fruits and vegetables; Sun-drying of fruits and vegetables; Artificial dehydration of fruits and vegetables; Radiation preservation of fruits and vegetables; Manufacture of fruit/vegetable juices and their concentrates, squashes and powders; Manufacture of sauces, jams, jellies, and marmalades etc; Canning of fruits and vegetables; Fruit and vegetable preservation n.e.c.; Processing, canning and preserving of fish, crustacea and similar foods; Grain milling; Flour milling by power machine; Other grain milling and processing activities n.e.c.; Production of common salt; Manufacture of cocoa products and sugar confectionery (including sweetmeats); Manufacture of cocoa products, starch and its derivatives, food products n.e.c; soya texture proteins, soya protein isolates, soya protein concentrates, other specified products of soya bean, winterised and deodorised refined soyabean oil.

[Translation]

#### **Non-Performing Assets**

\*550. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the non-performing assets of Indian Banks were about 17% of the total loans granted in 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above percentage is comparatively much higher than that of the foreign banks;

(d) if so, the average percentage thereof in Hong Kong, Korea, Taiwan, Japan, America and England, separately; and