

sortia of small scale exporters. Export House Certificates are granted to SSI Units who set up consortia of their own for marketing their products provided they fulfil the conditions laid down. This year, another scheme has been introduced under which a consortia of small scale units will be given the facility to set up "Export Groups" if the prescribed conditions are fulfilled, even if they do not qualify as a fullfledged export house. Such "Export Groups" will be eligible to receive the same facilities as are available to other Export Houses except the facility of acquiring licences by transfer from other exporters.

Indianisation of Foreign Companies

*807. SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the total number of foreign companies in India which had agreed to dilute their capital on the basis of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act and their present investment?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): In accordance with the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973, so far 48 companies have diluted their non-resident interest in their equity shareholding to 40 per cent or less. 5 companies have gone out of the purview of Section 29 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act 1973, consequent upon their merger/amalgamation.

The position in regard to the present investment of the above 48 companies is given below:

	(Rs. in crores)
(A) Total paid-up capital after dilution	42
(B) Out of (A) above paid-up capital held by non-residents after dilution	14

In addition, 66 subsidiary companies have indicated to the Reserve Bank of India their willingness to dilute their

foreign shareholding to the level specified. Their total paid-up equity capital as on 1-1-1974 was Rs. 48 crores and the non-resident holding in the paid-up equity capital was Rs. 33 crores. Also, 101 branches of foreign companies are agreeable to convert themselves into Indian companies with non-resident interest upto the level specified by the Reserve Bank of India.

Indianisation of Foreign Companies

*809. SHRI NANUBHAI N PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the foreign companies which have submitted applications for retention of 100 per cent foreign equity on the ground of secrecy of their formulae; and

(b) whether these applications meet the requirements of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b). One of the foreign companies, M/s. Coca Cola Export Corporation, USA, has proposed that they may be allowed the manufacture, of Coca Cola concentrates by their Indian branch on the ground of secrecy of their formula. They have also indicated their willingness to set up an Indian company with not more than 40 per cent participation by the Corporation for conducting other activities of the Indian branch. The Company's proposals are under consideration.

Import Duty on Leather Processing Machinery

*810. SHRI RAMSAHAJ PANDEY: SHRI C. JANARDHANAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a cut in the import duty on leather processing machinery has been urged to facilitate a speedier switch-over to finished leather processing; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government thereon?