

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7754

ANSWERED ON:17.05.2002

PERMISSION TO FRENCH COMPANY TO SET UP MINERAL WATER PLANT

S. SAIDUZZAMAN

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a French firm Danone propose to set up mineral water plant in India and may also takeover Himalayan brand and a few other companies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is considered reasonable to permit such companies in areas where Indian companies and former MNCs are already well established apart from the entry of Railway Board in the mineral water business;
- (d) if so, the rationale behind such move;
- (e) whether the Government will also not allow use of Ganges, Yamuna and other rivers water for exploitation for exports market by forieng firms; and
- (f) if so, the preventive steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH)

- (a) No request in this regard has been received for consideration of the Government.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) to (f): FDI up to 100% is permitted in most activities in the manufacturing sector. With the virtual abolition of industrial licensing, except for a few activities, creation of capacities in various sectors is left to market forces. Similarly, restrictions on import of foreign technology have also been virtually lifted. In regard to the specific matter raised about mineral water sector, the same is open to both domestic and foreign players without any restriction on capacity expansion or creation of fresh capacity. All requirements to be met from environmental angle will apply equally to domestic and foreign investors.