

accuracy. However, on the request to Government of Jammu and Kashmir a group comprising of representative from GSI, CMPDIL and J&K Minerals was set up in the meeting of sub-group on coal and lignite to study the possibility of carrying out further exploration. As per the decision of Sub-Committee on coal and lignite held at Calcutta on 19.12.1998, an expert group consisting of members from GSI, CMPDIL and MECL visited the Mohogala coalfield, Jammu during 1st week of Feb. '99 to study the need and scope for future exploration to augment the mining activities. Based on the report of the expert group, Sub-Committee will recommend the future course of action.

(b) and (c) Government have not received any proposal for handing over the management of J&K Minerals to Coal India Limited.

Export of Mango

1549. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA :
SHRI M. RAJAJAH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for export of mangoes during the next season;

(b) whether mangoes get spoiled on journeys on account of inadequate cold storage; and

(c) the steps taken to arrange special refrigerators as in foreign countries to export bulk in one container to boost export of mangoes and other perishable fruits?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No specific target has been fixed for export of mangoes during the next season.

(b) and (c) Fruits including mangoes require controlled atmospheric conditions during the shipment in order to prolong their shelf life. At present such containers are not in use for the export of mangoes and other perishable fruits. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority APEDA, under the Ministry of Commerce in association with State Government agencies and leading exporters, has initiated experiments for undertaking trial shipment of mangoes through Controlled Atmosphere (CA) container from selected regions for selected varieties of mangoes having export potential. The success of this experiment is expected to help in enhancing the shelf life, quality of the product

and its international competitiveness and thereby contribute to enhancement of export of mangoes and other fruits.

Withdrawal of FDI Proposal

1550. SHRI S.S. OWAISI :
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after withdrawal of proposal by TATA to fly domestic airlines the foreign investment has come down;

(b) if so, the number of proposals taken back by foreign investors in different sectors;

(c) whether there is a demand in the Industrial circle to abolish Foreign Investment Promotion Board; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The withdrawal of the proposal to fly domestic airlines by M/s. Tata Industries Ltd., has not affected the foreign direct investment.

(c) and (d) No such proposal has been received from Industrial circles.

Duty Free Slab in SSIs

1551. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the duty-free slab of turnover in Small Scale Industries had remained stagnant at Rs. 30 lakhs during last twelve years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to safeguard the interests of Small Scale Industries?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The duty free slab of turnover in SSIs was fixed at Rs. 30 lakhs in 1986 (notification No. 175/86-CE dated 1.3.1986). Since this limit covered the majority of small scale units and therefore took care of the genuine needs of small scale