

SEZ's approved and notified

938. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) approved and notified so far and how many of them has started functioning State/UT-wise;

(b) the quantum of waste and barren land, single crop land and double crop land that have been acquired for setting up of these SEZs and at what rate; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that agriculture and industry both prosper in a mutually reinforcing manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) A total of 531 SEZs have since been notified. A statement containing state/UT-wise distribution of operational SEZs is enclosed (*See below*).

(b) Land/Land usage is a state subject. Land for SEZs is procured as per the policy and procedures of the respective State Governments. As per information so far collected from respective state governments about 181 SEZs, it is observed that 92% of the land is barren/waste while 7.5% of the land is single crop. The double crop land acquired for SEZs is negligible.

(c) State Governments have been advised that in case of land acquisition for Special Economic Zones, first priority should be for acquisition of waste and barren land and if necessary single crop agricultural land could be acquired for the SEZs. If perforce a portion of double cropped agricultural land has to be acquired to meet the minimum area requirements, especially for multi-product Special Economic Zones, the same should not exceed 10% of the total land required for the SEZ. The Board of Approval only considers those proposals, which have been duly recommended by the State Government.

Further, pursuant to the decision of Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) in its meeting held on 5th April 2007, the State Governments have been informed on 15th June, 2007 that the Board of Approval will not approve any SEZs where the State Governments have carried out or propose to carry out compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs after 5th April, 2007.

Statement

Operational Special Economic Zones notified under SEZ Act 2005

| Sl. No. | State | Operational SEZs notified under SEZ Act 2005 | Operational Central Govt. SEZs | Operational State Govt/Private SEZs |
|---------|----------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 21 | 1 | — |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------|----------------|----|---|----|
| 2. | Chandigarh | 1 | — | — |
| 3. | Gujarat | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| 4. | Karnataka | 13 | — | 2 |
| 5. | Kerala | 2 | 1 | — |
| 6. | Maharashtra | 11 | 1 | — |
| 7. | Orissa | 1 | — | — |
| 8. | Punjab | 2 | — | — |
| 9. | Tamil Nadu | 8 | 1 | 4 |
| 10. | Uttar Pradesh | 2 | 1 | — |
| 11. | West Bengal | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 12. | Rajasthan | — | — | 2 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | — | — | 1 |
| Total | | 68 | 7 | 12 |

Restricting export of iron ore

939. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country's iron ore experts have advised on restricting or stopping altogether the export of iron ore as it is considered worse than selling family silver;

(b) the factors that prevent us from selling it at best prices in the world than dumping it at cheapest prices;

(c) if so, whether Government has taken any decision on export of iron ore; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) An expert Committee, constituted by the Central Government, examined the issue of restrictions on iron ore export. The Committee consulted the various stakeholders including State Governments and submitted its report which was considered by the Government. Government agreed to the recommendation of the expert Committee that restrictions on export of iron ore are not required, while holding that even though conservation of iron ore resources of the country is of paramount importance, the same may not be achieved by banning or capping the export of iron ore but by taking recourse to appropriate fiscal measures.