

shown a negative growth of 3.5% as compared to last year. Efforts have also been made to provide a level playing field to domestic producers by calibrating the duty structure, which has been revised as and when considered necessary. In addition, all imports are subject to domestic laws, rules, regulations, procedures & technical standards applicable to the domestic products.

Most of our imports comprise raw materials, essential items, capital goods and petroleum crude. It is neither possible nor economically feasible to produce all our requirements within the country.

Improvement of SEZs

2292. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO :

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that FICCI study calls for immediate steps to improve SEZs performance;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to implement the findings of the study; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to grant exemption to the SEZs from the purview of the labour laws ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI) : (a) and (b) The FICCI study briefly sets out some of the factors for success of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) while advocating a flexible labour policy for the zones. The study has suggested that power of the Labour Commissioner be delegated to the development Commissioner of SEZ to oversee the implementation of Labour laws within the zone.

(c) The Government has not finalised its views in regard to changes in Labour laws applicable to units in Special Economic Zones.

Assistance to Rubber Cultivators

2293. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN :

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN :

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