

[6 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

proposals are yet to be granted approval. State/Union Territory-wise details are as follows:—

S.No	Name of the State/UT	No. of SEZs for which formal approval granted	No. of cases in which 'in principle' approval granted	No. of proposals yet to be approved
1.	Andhra Pradesh	45	09	16
2..	Assam	—	—	01
3.	Bihar	—	—	01
4.	Chandigarh	02	—	01
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	02	01
6.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	01	—
7.	Delhi	01	01	02
8.	Goa	04	—	05
9.	Gujarat	18	12	18
10.	Haryana	19	27	23
11.	Himachal Pradesh	—	03	02
12.	Jharkhand	01	—	02
13.	Karnataka	29	17	36
14.	Kerala	10	02	07
15.	Madhya Pradesh	04	06	09
16.	Maharashtra	48	27	41
17.	Orissa	05	07	04
18.	Pondicherry	01	—	—
19.	Punjab	04	07	04
20.	Rajasthan	03	08	05
21.	Tamil Nadu	25	12	33
22.	Uttaranchal	03	01	—
23.	Uttar Pradesh	08	10	17
24.	West Bengal	07	14	22
	Total	237	166	250

WTO compliant tax concessions to SEZs

1505. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ensured that the tax concessions and duty reliefs given to SEZs are WTO compliant; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what steps are being taken to ensure that the SEZs achieve their export objectives, without violating the norms set by WTO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes Sir. The concessions offered in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are WTO compliant and these include duty free import/domestic procurement of goods for development, operation and maintenance, 100% Income Tax exemption on export income for first 5 years, 50% for next 5 years thereafter & 50% of the ploughed back export profit for next 5 years, exemption from minimum alternate tax under section 115JB of the Income Tax Act, external commercial borrowing by SEZ units up to US \$ 500 million in a year without any maturity restriction through recognized banking channels, exemption from Central Sales Tax, exemption from Service Tax, exemption from State sales tax and other levies as extended by the respective State Governments. The concessions available to SEZ developers include exemption from customs/excise duties for development of SEZs, Income Tax exemption on export income for a block of 10 years in 15 years, exemption from minimum alternate tax, exemption from dividend distribution tax, exemption from Central Sales Tax and exemption from Service.

(b) As per the SEZ Rules 2006, the units in SEZ are required to achieve Positive Net Foreign Exchange to be calculated cumulatively for a period of five years from the commencement of production and this ensures their export orientation.

Revival of sick industries

1506. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the industrial sickness prevalent in the existing industrial estates in the country;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to revive such industrial estates;