

The information had been sought from the domestic industry with the purpose of understanding the real monetary and qualitative impact of standards, including sanitary and phytosanitary standards and other certification and procedural requirements for exports.

(c) A Study commissioned by the Department of Commerce has projected that India's exports to BIMSTEC countries may rise by as much as 74 per cent in comparison to 2003, by promoting rapid tariff liberalization in the BIMSTEC region.

Land customs authority for border trading

2283. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry announced during his visit to Petrapple recently that a Land Customs Port Authority of India would be set up at a cost of Rs. 800 crore to run and manage Border Trading Centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said Authority is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) According to the Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, the Government has given in-principle approval to set up a Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) for overseeing construction, management & maintenance of Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) at identified entry points on the land borders of the country. Locations for 13 such ICPs have been identified to be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 850 crores, in a phased manner.

Registration of exportable commodities and handicrafts

2284. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are accelerating the registration of commodities and handicrafts that are export-oriented;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; country-wise;
- (c) whether Government are facing any difficulties in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps being taken to resolve such issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) to (e) The trade data of all commodities to and from all countries including handicrafts is being captured on the basis of ITC(HS) classifications of Export and Import items. These codes are revised by the M/o Finance after consultation with the concerned Ministers as and when felt necessary or on receiving the proposal submitted by the stock holder.

Rate contract by DGS&D

2285. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that DGS&D is responsible for the core activity of concluding rate contracts for all items of common use in Government officers;
- (b) if so, the details of the procedure followed and the items of common use;
- (c) how it is ensured that only good quality items are selected for rate contracts, for efficient performance;
- (d) whether Government offices are allowed to make purchases from open market, if the items are available in the market at lower rates than the rate contract; and
- (e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. The detailed procedure for concluding rate contracts is laid down in chapter 13 of DGS&D Manual, which is a priced publication and is also available on the DGS&D Website (<http://dgsnd.gov.in>).