Erosion in earnings due to Appreciation of Rupee

- 1194. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that sectors like Information Technology, Textile, Leather and Handicrafts have been badly hit by the persistent rise in rupee *vis-a-vis* dollar as rupee has reportedly appreciated by more than 10 per cent in the last 12 months, resulting in erosion of earnings;
- (b) whether Government proposes to give fiscal support specially for technology upgradation, capital investment to IT sector by Public Private Partnership; and
- (c) what steps new Government has taken so far in funding of affected industries, so that, they are able to push export during 2009-10?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There has been no appreciation of Rupee *vis-a-vis* US \$ during last few months and consequentially there has been no impact of Rupee Appreciation on the Indian Industries.

Impact of economic slowdown on trade pacts with other countries

- 1195. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government has assessed the impact of the economic slowdown on the trade pacts with other countries, particularly USA, Europe and China;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (c) the steps taken by Government to protect the indigenous industries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Government has not entered into any bilateral trade pacts with the USA, Europe or China. There are a number of Trade Agreements with individual countries (e.g. India-Singapore CECA, India-Sri Lanka FTA, India-Chile PTA, etc.) and with groups of countries (e.g. Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement, India-MERCOSUR PTA, etc.). No specific study to assess the impact of economic slowdown on these Trade Pacts has been done.

(c) Does not arise.

Global tender for Import of Coal

- 1196. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) Ltd. floated a global tender on May 19, 2009 for import of coal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the genesis of the coal import proposal, including targeted quality, quantity and GIF prices and special conditions, if any, prescribed for eligibility of potential bidders;