

importers. The criteria of minimum turnover of Rupees one crore in each of the last three years was stipulated based on the recommendations of an Inter-ministerial Committee which had felt that small units would not have the capability to import rough marble blocks/slabs directly on their own.

The dual Policy of 2008 has been superseded and amended by a new unified Policy based on a uniform single set of criteria, announced *vide* Policy Circular No. 12 dated 23rd October, 2009. The new Policy not only permits inclusion of new units every year, but also ensures uniformity in allocation for a large number of domestic processors having capability to import themselves and process rough marble blocks/slabs.

Inclusion of domestic processors for the eligibility for import of rough marble blocks/slabs was appreciated by the trade, as well as the Government of Rajasthan.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Acquiring mining rights of Ramandurg iron ore by MMTC

2152. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mineral and Metal Trading Corporation (MMTC) has acquired mining rights pertaining to Ramandurg iron ore mine in Bellary district, Karnataka;

(b) if so, the salient details of Ramandurg mine indicating its estimated reserve, terms and conditions of acquisition etc.;

(c) the details of the process which culminated into MMTC's obtaining grant of the mining right and objective behind the acquisition;

(d) whether MMTC acquired any other iron mines preceding Ramandurg; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Subsidising bio-fuel production by industrialised countries

2153. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

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

(a) whether industrialised countries are spending a gigantic amount of nearly \$15 billion on subsidies for bio-fuel raw-material cultivation or meeting the requirements of bio-diesel derived from palm oil, etc.; and

(b) whether we are seriously taking up this issue of subsidising bio-fuel or bio-diesel production in international forums like G-20, WTO and other similar organizations so that global food prices are not unduly increased and interests of underdeveloped and developing nations are not jeopardized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) As per a report published by Oxfam International in June 2008, rich countries spent upto \$15 billion in the previous year supporting bio-fuels.

A substantial reduction in trade-distorting domestic support (subsidies) for agriculture is a key part of the mandate of the Doha Round of trade negotiations in the World Trade Organisation (WTO). India is a member of the G-20 group of developing countries working towards ambitious reforms of agriculture in developed countries with some flexibility for developing countries. India is working closely with the G-20 to keep up pressure on developed countries to seek effective cuts in their Overall Trade-distorting Domestic Support and to bring about effective disciplines in domestic support.

Bilateral trade relations between India and China

†2154. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

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

(a) whether India and China have recently evolved any mechanism to solve the issues related to bilateral trade between both the countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to deal with the effects of global recession by strengthening the bilateral trade and by bringing the diversity in exports between both the countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures being taken by Government to make normal trade relations between both the countries and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (e) India has several bilateral dialogue mechanisms with China including the Joint Group on Economic Relations, Trade, Science and Technology (JEG) at Ministerial level and Joint Working Group on Trade at Joint Secretary level. China has become the largest trading partner of India. Both India and China have regular interactions to discuss trade related issues. The Chinese Vice-Minister of Commerce Mr. Gao Hucheng visited India in October, 2008 and another Chinese Vice-Minister of Commerce Mr. Zhong Shan visited India in March, 2009. Commerce and Industry Minister also met Chinese Commerce Minister in 2009 and discussed trade related issues. Government is pursuing with Chinese side greater market access as also undertaking trade promotion activities for our products such as agricultural products, basmati rice and pharmaceuticals. Indian companies

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.