

Month-wise Export Growth during 2009-10

Month	Growth (%)
April' 09	-35.0
May, 09	-37.1
June' 09	-32.2
July' 09	-30.8
August' 09	-27.2
September' 09	-13.0
October' 09	-6.6
November' 09	18.2
December' 09	9.3
January' 10	11.5

Source: DGCI&S Kolkata

(c) The Government and RBI closely monitor the economic developments in the country and internationally on a continuous basis and need based measures are taken, from time to time, keeping in view the financial and overall economic implications. To arrest the decline in exports, the Government/RBI announced stimulus packages including the announcements made in the Budget 2009-10 and in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2009-14 to provide support. Government extended additional support in January, 2010. Some of the steps taken by Government and RBI are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to starred Question No. 95 Part 'e']

Investment in SEZs

618. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI R.C. SINGH:

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

- (a) the total number of SEZs and investment in each State, State-wise as on December 31, 2009;
- (b) the total exports from SEZ units and the total employment created as on December 31, 2009; and
- (c) the estimated loss incurred by Government by various tax benefits provided for by SEZ Act to SEZ units in all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) In addition to the Seven Central Government SEZs and 12 State/Private Sector SEZs set up prior to the enactment of SEZ Act,

2005, formal approvals have been accorded to 575 proposals out of which 348 SEZs have been notified. A total of 105 SEZs are already exporting. As on 31st December, 2009, an investment of Rs. 1,28,390.44 crore has been made in SEZs.

(b) Direct employment for 4,89,831 persons have been generated in SEZs. Exports of Rs. 1,52,092.68 crore approx. have been made from SEZs during April-December, 2009 registering a growth of about 127% over the exports for the same period of the previous financial year.

(c) The fiscal concessions are in built into the SEZ Act, 2005. The Units in the SEZs are allowed duty free goods for setting up SEZ Units, exemption from Service Tax, Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT), Central Sales Tax etc. SEZ Units are allowed 100% Income Tax exemption on export income under Section 10AA of the Income Tax Act for first 5 years, 50% for next 5 years thereafter and 50% of the ploughed back export profit for next 5 years. Also, sales into Domestic Tariff Area by SEZ Units attract all duties including Countervailing Duties.

Single point clearance system for SEZs

619. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has directed all State Governments to put in place a Single Point Clearance System for speedy approval of Special Economic Zones;

(b) if so, the details of the latest directives to State Governments in this regard;

(c) whether Government has also mentioned any suggestions on the extent of farm land which can be acquired through this Single Point Clearance System;

(d) what are the guidelines issued to State Governments on the financial penalties to be imposed on SEZ operators who misuse this policy; and

(e) the details of such comprehensive directives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Central Government has recognised the pivotal role of State Government in setting up of SEZs. They have been requested to create an Empowered Committee for granting all kinds of State Government approvals through Single Window Mechanism to SEZ Developers, to provide external connectivity for SEZs and exemption from certain state duties and taxes etc.

(c) Land is a State subject. Land for SEZs is procured as per the policy and procedures of the respective State Governments. State Governments have been advised that in case of land acquisition for Special Economic Zones, first priority should be for acquisition of waste and barren land if necessary single crop agricultural land could be acquired for the SEZs. If perforce a portion of double cropped agricultural land has to be acquired to meet the minimum area requirements, especially for multi-product Special Economic Zones, the same should not exceed 10% of the total land required for the SEZ.