

#### **Reduction in Financial Assistance under ASIDE scheme**

4317. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the specific reason for reducing the financial allocation under Central Assistance to State for Developing Export Infrastructure and Other Allied Activity (ASIDE) scheme during 2008-2009;

(b) whether there has been a lapse on the part of the Ministry to make out a good case or to exert enough pressure to enhance allocation every year as done usually; and

(c) how Maharashtra and Gujarat could get the majority of the total allocation in preference or at the expense of other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Allocation and release during 2008-09 were Rs. 570 Cr and Rs. 569.24 Cr respectively under Assistance to State for Developing Export Infrastructure and Other Allied Activity (ASIDE) scheme. Allocation for ASIDE scheme has been enhanced to Rs. 662.98 Cr for 2010-11.

(c) ASIDE scheme intends to establish a mechanism for seeking involvement of State Governments in export efforts. ASIDE allocation is linked to State's export performance and growth. As per state-wise export data provided by Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, the exports from Maharashtra and Gujarat are high; therefore, they get more allocation than those lagging behind them in export performance.

#### **Clearance to SEZs in the country**

4318. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that work of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) is not geared up in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for early clearance of SEZs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) No Sir. In terms of Rule 6 of the SEZ Rules,