

Pulling out of developers from SEZs

3538. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that global economic slowdown, political resistance to land acquisition and lack of clarity on tax policy are mainly responsible to drive the developers to pull out of Special Economic Zones (SEZs); and

(b) if so, the steps taken, so far, to get over such hurdles and to promote the activities of SEZs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Fiscal concessions and duty benefits are built into the SEZ Scheme and in short span of about four years since SEZs Act and Rules were notified in February, 2006, formal approvals have been granted for setting up of 574 SEZs out of which 353 have been notified. A total of 111 SEZs are already exporting. The exports during the financial year 2009-10 have been to the tune of Rs. 2,20,611.30 crores (approx.) registering a growth of 121.29% over the exports made during the last year.

During the calendar year 2008 and 2009, a total of 177 fresh proposal for setting up SEZs have been accorded formal approval by the Board of Approval (BoA) whereas nine proposals of de-notification have been approved by the BoA during the same period.

Special purpose tea fund

3539. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up a Special Purpose Tea Fund for improving production and productivity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) who is responsible for providing knowledge to the tea growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has set up a Special Purpose Tea Fund (SPTF) with the objective of large scale uprooting and replanting/rejuvenation of old tea bushes for improving tea production and productivity. It is envisaged to replant/rejuvenate