

(a) There is no proposal to establish any new Special Economic Zone (SEZ) by the Central Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Formal approvals for setting up of 106 Special Economic Zones have been granted under the provisions of the Special Economic Act, 2005,

(e) It is not feasible to estimate the total number of commercial and industrial units which may be set up in these Special Economic Zones.

Impact of FDI

177. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review has been undertaken to assess the impact of recent decision to allow single brand retailers to bring Foreign Direct Investment into the country with 51 per cent equity ownership;

(b) if so, the results thereof;

(c) the details of applications received for such investments and the decision taken thereon; and

(d) the broad outlines of the policy framework chalked out, if any, to further open up the retail sector which would also ensure continued viability of the large unorganised sector providing employment to some 20 million people across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) So far 8 proposals have been received out of which the proposal of M/s Moja Shoes for setting up retail outlets for selling Nike Brand Products has been approved and the proposal of M/s Sikora Aktiengesellschaft has been rejected.

(d) Based on a comprehensive review of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy undertaken in January, 2006, the Government has allowed FDI up to 51 %, in the retail trade of 'Single Brand' products subject to the following conditions:

- (i) Products to be sold should be of a 'Single Brand' only.
- (ii) Products should be sold under the same brand internationally.
- (iii) 'Single Brand' product-retailing would cover only products which are branded during manufacturing.

The FDI policy, including the policy for the retail sector, has not been reviewed thereafter.

Single window clearance mechanism for manufacturing units

178. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to set up five specific areas for setting up manufacturing units involving single window clearance mechanism, liberal land acquisition norms and labour laws is under Government's consideration,

(b) whether such units proposed to be set up in these areas will cater entirely to exports or whether a part of it will be for domestic markets;

(c) whether the manufacturing units in such areas would be insulated against the stringent labour laws such as Industrial Disputes Act, Contracts Act, etc., and

(d) what is the present stage of consideration of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) Manufacturing sector in India has grown at a rate of 9% for the last three years with 17% share in the GDP. Government recognises the need for increasing the growth rate of the manufacturing sector to 12-14% in order to enhance its share in the economic growth and expand employment opportunity in the country. Setting up of the Manufacturing Investment Regions (MIRs) in the country is one of the initiatives towards providing quality infrastructure and efficient and transparent regulatory systems in order to encourage manufacturing growth. The contours of the policy and legal framework in respect of the