

from industry associations from time to time against modification of the basis of refund of 'excise duty exemption' *w.e.f.* 27.3.2008 by linking it to the rate of value addition notified for each industry, resulting in alleged slowing down of investments in the region. They have also requested that 'subsidies and incentives' may not be treated as 'other income' of the industrial units for the purpose of calculation of income tax. However, it has not been found feasible to accede to these requests.

The funds for disbursement to the eligible units are released as per the requirement and availability of funds. Moreover, as and when any issue is raised by any of the stakeholders, it is resolved on the basis of mutual consultation.

Modernisation of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd.

2587. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd., a subsidiary of M.M.T.C. is making profit;
- (b) if so, what is the gross profit of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. for the last three years;
- (c) in view of competitive market, whether Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. could sustain without modernization and expansion; and
- (d) if so, who is funding for the modernization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL) is making profit. However, NINL is not a subsidiary of MMTC Limited. NINL is jointly promoted by MMTC Limited and others.

- (b) The gross profit of NINL for the last three years is given below:

(Value in Rs. Crores)		
2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
120.70	87.97	57.47

(c) and (d) NINL is taking certain measures and creating additional facilities to stay competitive in the market which is envisaged to be met through internal accruals, equity from existing shareholders and term loan from financial institutions and Banks/Bonds.

Joining of hallmarking Vienna Convention

2588. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has joined the global jewellery hallmarking Vienna convention;
- (b) if so, whether our country becomes the 19th country to join the league and hallmarking of jewellery in India will be globally recognized and acceptable;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether this move will boost the jewellery export from the country; 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) to (e) Does not arise.

Extension of patent protection under EU FTA

2589. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the key provisions that the EU FTA wants to push in the area of medicines are the extension of patent protection by five years, more barriers for generic manufacturers using patent linkage and data exclusivity;
- (b) whether Government is also aware that all these measures are attempts to extend the sphere of patent and retain their monopoly well past the normal time period of 22 years granted under TRIPS; and
- (c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The negotiations in the proposed India - EU Broad based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) are ongoing and the final position in all sectors including IPR have not yet emerged Government is fully alive to the need to protect people's rights to both medicines and health and there is no question of compromise on this issue.

Steep fall in industrial growth rate

2590. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) fell shortly from 16.5 per cent growth in April, 2010 to a rate of 11.5 percent in May, 2010;
- (b) what are the reasons for this steep fall in rate of growth of industrial production;