

Fast tracking of export clearance

2598. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to fast track export clearance;
- (b) if so, whether Government also proposes speeding up steps of India's merchandise exports;
- (c) whether a plan of action is underway for reducing the time lost by exporters in the maze of bureaucracy and vital monetization of the time so saved; and
- (d) if so, what are the steps taken in this direction and to what extent it has helped the exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Government has taken a number of steps for simplification of procedure and reduction of Transaction Costs in the Foreign Trade Policy 2009-2014 with a view to fast track export clearance. The Government has been closely monitoring the economic developments in the country and internationally on a continuous basis and need based support measures and incentives have been announced from time to time for speeding up India's merchandise exports. Details of such steps are available in public domain and can be downloaded from <http://dgft.gov.in>.

(c) and (d) The Government has constituted a Task Force on Transaction Costs to assess the procedural bottlenecks affecting India's export and import and to suggest ways and means to reduce transaction costs and time lost by exporters so as to improve export competitiveness.

Artillery guns for army

2599. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) how important is the artillery gun purchase for the army and since when the new purchases of the same have not been made; and
- (b) the status of artillery gun purchases and reasons for delay, if any?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Artillery guns play an important role in the weapon systems of the Army. The last purchase of a gun system was made in 1986. A mid-life upgrade of some artillery guns was carried out in 2007. As per requirements, the procurement proposals for various artillery guns are currently in progress.