

[27 April, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

(iii) To identify issues relating to State Governments with regard to capacity building under WTO, infrastructure development and creating an overall supportive Policy and fiscal environment for international trade.

(iv) To create a framework by making States a partner in India's export effort.

(c) and (d) The Council will be headed by the Commerce and Industry Minister and will meet as required.

**EPZs/SEZs/FTZs/AEZs in Bihar**

3576. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Export Processing Zones/Special Economic Zones/Foreign Trade Zones/Agri Export Zones in Bihar;

(b) how do those activities compare with the activities of the above mentioned zone in other States; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure fair and equitable share of Bihar in those activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) Setting up of an Agri Export Zone (AEZ) for lychees was approved on 5.3.2002 by the Steering Committee on AEZs on the basis of proposal received from Government of Bihar. The zone was notified by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade on 16.7.2003. Subsequently, honey and vegetables were also included.

There is, however, no Export Processing Zone/Special Economic Zone in Bihar. There is also no scheme called the "Foreign Trade Zones".

(b) The intervention required in each AEZ for horticulture products differ from one State of another depending on the existing infrastructure, the extension and training services required, the marketability of the product etc.

(c) The Foreign Trade Policy provides a transparent and non-discriminatory framework for promotion of export activities for the country as a whole.