

(a) whether India has expressed its concern on various occasions regarding the slow progress of Doha round of talks due to disagreement over certain key issues in agriculture and industrial goods;

(b) whether India has been resisting discussion on sectorals by saying that participation should be voluntary and not linked to incentives or penalties;

(c) whether fresh WTO proposals on agriculture sector meet India's demands; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent these are likely to protect the country's agricultural community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir, India has expressed concern about the slow progress of talks on several occasions.

(b) Yes, Sir. India has made it clear that negotiations on participation in sectoral initiatives for industrial products must be voluntary and on a good faith basis without prejudging the outcome.

(c) and (d) The draft agriculture proposals currently under discussion in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) were brought out in December 2008. Throughout the ongoing negotiations, India has been voicing its concerns strongly wherever it felt that the proposals under consideration fell short of its expectations and requirements and is working closely with its partners in developing country coalitions to ensure an outcome that will safeguard the interests of farmers. Substantial and effective reductions in domestic support and customs tariffs by developed countries, while enabling developing countries to protect and promote the interests of their low income and resource poor farmers, is a key priority for India and other developing countries in the agriculture negotiations. The flexibilities proposed for developing countries including, *inter alia*, lower tariff cuts than developed countries, self-designation of Special Products (SPs) that would take lower or no tariff cuts and the Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) that would allow imposition of an additional duty in the event of a surge in import volumes or a fall in prices would be utilized by India for protecting its farmers.

#### **Review of restrictions on import items from EU**

171. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that European Union has demanded to review restrictions imposed on some import items; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) In the negotiations of the proposed India-EU Broad based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) India is committed for a balanced and mutually beneficial outcome and no final positions have emerged.

#### **Approval of new SEZs**

172. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a significant move, Government has given nod to 11 new Special Economic Zones (SEZs) led by new investment by Infosys and Wipro during the monthly meeting of the inter ministerial Board of Approval (BOA);

(b) if so, whether this Board also approved India's largest stainless steel producer JSL's withdrawal of its sector specific SEZ in Orissa;

(c) whether BOA also gave green signal to JLN Port trust multi-product SEZ in Mumbai while allowing real estate giant Raheja Universal Ltd.'s request to surrender its SEZ in Maharashtra; and

(d) whether Centre has also given additional time to 37 SEZs developers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) So far, a total of six proposals of Infosys Technology Limited have been accorded Formal Approval for setting of SEZs out of which four have been notified. Similarly, a total of eight proposals of Wipro Limited have been accorded Formal Approval out of which six have been notified. Details like location, area, sector etc. of these SEZs are available on the website [www.sezindia.nic.in](http://www.sezindia.nic.in).

(b) and (c) Yes Sir.

(d) Having regard to the provisions of the SEZ Act, 2005 and SEZ Rules, 2006, the Board of Approval (BOA), depending on merits of each case, so far have permitted extension of validity of approval of 184 SEZs beyond the initial 3 years subject to the same terms and conditions as envisaged in the original approval.