

Corporate Social Responsibility Fund

162. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of the corporate social responsibility fund with the Department;
- (b) whether this fund has properly been utilized; and
- (c) if so, the details of the fund collected and spent for meeting social responsibilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MAHADAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) The Department of Commerce does not have a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Fund.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Setting up of SEZs

163. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government had taken up for approval requests for setting up of Special Economic Zones;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to come out with strict norms for units in SEZs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MAHADAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) In terms of the SEZ Act, 2005 a SEZ may be set up either jointly or severally by the Central Government, State Government or any person for manufacture of goods or rendering services or for both or as a free trade warehousing zone. Such proposals duly recommended by the concerned State Government are considered by the Board of Approval for SEZs. In addition to seven Central Government Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and 12

State/Private Sector SEZs set up prior to the enactment of SEZ Act, 2005, formal approval has been accorded to 578 proposals out of which 367 SEZs have been notified. A total of 122 SEZs are already exporting.

(c) and (d) Setting of SEZ unit and its functioning is regulated as per the provisions of SEZ Act 2005 and rules framed thereunder. The Approval Committees under the Development Commissioners constituted for each Zone, which comprise representatives from Customs, Income-tax, State Governments etc. have been directed to monitor the performance of the SEZ Units. This includes scrutiny of Annual Performance Report (APR), Quarterly Performance Report (QPR) and details of rent recovery. Failure to meet the requirements of the scheme or any violation attracts action under Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.

FTA with European Union

164. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is likely to sign the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with European Union (EU) by the end of this year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MAHADAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) India is negotiating a Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) with the European Union (EU). While India is committed for an early and balanced outcome of the negotiations and as negotiations are an ongoing process, it is not possible to indicate a timeline for conclusion of the negotiations.

Expansion of trade with Commonwealth Countries

165. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aiming to expand the trade with Commonwealth nations after successful completion of Commonwealth Games;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the estimated trade in terms of dollars between the Commonwealth nations and India and SAARC countries and India?