(a) whether a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) talks between Japan and India were concluded during the Hon'ble Prime Minister's recent visit to Japan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the salient features of the agreement which would benefit Indian economic development further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Conclusion of negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was declared during the Prime Minister's visit to Japan on 25th October, 2010. The CEPA is to be signed at Ministerial level on completion of necessary formalities by both sides.

(c) Japan has put 87% of its tariff lines under zero duty category for India. Most of the items are of India's export interest. Under this agreement the Japanese side will grant a treatment to the Indian applications for registration and release of generic drugs in the Japanese market, no less favorable than what it grants to such applications from its own nationals. The agreement also contains chapters on Investment and Services. Japan has opened up services market for Indian professionals considerably. Most of these commitments are without any restrictions. Japanese investment will bring to India not only financial resources but also high technology and quality management practices.

Allowing foreign investments in panchayats

†1554. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating on the proposal of allowing foreign investment in Panchayats also; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SEZ unit for Rajkot

1555. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:
SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration with the Ministry to sanction and establish new SEZ unit at Rajkot in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the present status of proposal and action taken thereon as on date;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) by when, the said SEZ unit will be sanctioned for Rajkot;

(d) whether any survey has been conducted at Ministerial level in the context of vital potentiality of new investment, 100 per cent EOU and industrial promotional aspects at Rajkot with regard to revenue generating point of view; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (e) 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. As on date, no proposal recommended by the Government of Gujarat for setting up of SEZ in Rajkot is pending with the Department of Commerce.

Shortage of pulses

†1556. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been shortage of pulses in the country for last four years;

(b if so, the details of encouragement made to import the pulses to meet its demands;

(c) whether it is also a fact that export of the pulses have also been made during those years; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction in this regard and the reasons for not fixing the quantum of pulses for export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The gap between demand and supply in met by imports of a variety of pulses from different countries. To meet the demand of pulses domestic availability is augmented largely through incentivizing imports at zero duty and banning exports. The Government has been extending zero duty import of pulses Government has also introduced a scheme to reimburse losses, if any, to the extent of 15% on import of pulses by STC, PEC, MMTC and NAFED. The Government has imposed the ban on export of all pulses (except Kabuli Chana) till 31.3.2011. However, export of pulses

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.