

- (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;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.