

share in various export markets and to diversify our markets and products, incentives have been provided under schemes, viz. Focus Product Scheme, Focus Market Scheme, Market linked Focus Product Scheme and Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana.

(d) and (e) The merchandise export during April, 2010-January, 2011 is valued at US \$ 184.6 billion (provisional). Under the present scenario total export is expected to be more than US \$ 200 billion for the period 2010-11.

Extension of time for development of SEZ projects

1405. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many promoters of Special Economic Zones had sought more time to develop their projects;
- (b) if so, whether Government had agreed to their request in this regard;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that many promoters of SEZ had surrendered their approvals; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) In terms of Rule 6 of the SEZ Rules, 2006, validity of approval is for a period of three years within which time effective steps are to be taken by the developer to implement the approved proposal. On requests received from the developers, Board of Approval has allowed the requests of extensions of formal approvals beyond the period of initial three years in respect of 203 cases.

(c) and (d) Requests for de-notification by the developers have been approved by the Board of Approval in respect of 23 SEZs located in various States and Union Territories. Global economic slowdown has been cited as one of the main reason for de-notification. However, the final de-notification is allowed only on receipt of certificate from the respective Development Commissioner that the Developer has refunded the duties/benefits, if any, availed by him.

Steps to reduce transaction cost for exports

1406. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has recently announced steps to lower the transaction cost for Indian exports in a bid to make them more competitive in the global market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the various bureaucratic and infrastructure hurdles are the main factors responsible for exporter's growth; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to ensure removal of hurdles by bureaucrats and others?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The report of Task Force on Transaction Cost in Exports constituted by Ministry of Commerce and Industry has been released on 8th February, 2011. Out of the 44 recommendations made by the Task Force concerning various Ministries/Departments, 21 recommendations have been implemented and 2 recommendations are to be implemented shortly.

(c) and (d) The report of the Task Force has identified various infrastructural and procedural issues affecting Indian exports. Recommendations to reduce these costs have been made by the Task Force. The Government has also announced a number of steps from time to time to reduce export costs and make Indian Exports competitive in global market. This includes announcement made in Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2009-14, on 27.8.2009, Annual Supplement to the Foreign Trade Policy 2010-11 on 23.8.2010 and certain specific measures on 11.2.2011.

Industrial package for Gujarat cities

1407. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has sent any letter to increase industrial package for Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Surat and Vadodra and promote and enhance industrial infrastructure with more investment;

(b) if so, by when it is going to be increased; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

The State Government of Gujarat has not sent any letter to increase industrial package for Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Surat and Vadodra.

In a deregulated industrial environment, the decisions to set up industries are taken by the entrepreneurs. The State Governments are primarily responsible for industrial development in their respective States and the Union Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various incentive schemes. The Union Government is implementing package of incentives for the special category States of the North East (including Sikkim) and the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Many other States have also requested for similar packages but it has been the consistent stand of the Government not to extend or announce any fresh package in view of the reason that