

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