

(d) As reported by the U.R State Handloom Corporation, a sum of Rs. 10.00 crore has been received so far from the Center and the State Government.

Encouraging States to establish SEZs

*331. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to encourage State Governments to facilitate establishment of Special Economic Zones in their States;

(b) the names of States which have sent proposals for establishing such zones;

(c) the names of States which have made preliminary inquiries in this regard; and

(d) the details of the overall response received by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The policy of the Central Government is to encourage and facilitate establishment of Special Economic Zones in the private sector or joint sector in association with the State Governments or by the State Governments themselves.

(b) to (d) The overall response for setting up of Special Economic Zones has been encouraging. Approvals have so far been given for setting up of 47 new Special Economic Zones in the private, joint sector in association with the State Governments or State Governments themselves at Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Navi Mumbai, Kopta (Maharashtra), Mundra, Positra, Dahej, Hazira, Icchapor (Sural), Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Hassan, Baikampady, (Karnataka), Moradabad, Bhadohi, Kanpur, Greater Noida, Noida (U.P.), Kakinada, Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Jaipur, Jodhpur (Rajasthan), Salt Lake (Manikanchan), Kolkata, Kulpi (West Bengal), Vallarpsdam, Kakkancherry, Kalamassery (Kerala), Nanguneri, Ennore, Mahindra City (near Chennai), Sriperumbudur (Tamil Nadu), Paradeep, Gopalpur (Orissa), Gurgaon (Haryana), Sedarapet-Karasur (Pondicherry), Adityapur, Ranchi (Jharkhand) and Chandigarh. Of these 3 zones have become operational in 2004-05.

Further, proposals recently received through the State Governments/ Union Territories for setting up SEZs at Mangalore, Bangalore, Hassan, (Karnataka), Shastri Park (New Delhi), Ghazibad (U.P.) Mohali, Amritsar (Punjab), Nagpur (Maharashtra) and Trivandrum (Kerala) are under the consideration of the Government and final decision would be taken shortly.

The State Governments who made preliminary enquiries for setting up of Special Economic Zones include Goa and Himachal Pradesh.

Permission for export of plants, herbs and its derivatives

*332. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that plants and herbs and its derivatives are allowed to be exported to other countries with express permission of the Ministry only;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some Japanese tourists visiting Sikkim recently have collected 3 truck loads of herbarium (plants specimen for Botanical Studies) in Tokyo but the collected materials are seized by the Government of Sikkim; and

(c) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that one citizen of the Czech Republic collected in 2003 rare plant seeds from North and West Sikkim Reserve Forest and has now advertised in website in Europe for sale of the same?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Foreign Trade Policy permits export of plants, plant portions their derivatives and extracts subject to conditions. The export of certain species notably those falling under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora, is prohibited. Exemption from this provision can be granted by Directorate General of Foreign Trade on the recommendation of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, for the purpose of research education and life saving drugs.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The State Government of Sikkim has informed that a resident of Sidlistni in Czech Republic had claimed to have collected wild flower seeds of eighty four species of alpine flowers from North and West Sikkim