

- (b) if so, the details of the proposal and the draft guidelines;
- (c) whether Government has abandoned that proposal;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) if not, the proposed time-frame for the notification of the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (e) There is no proposal for mandatory norms for making Special Economic Zones (SEZs) green. However, guidelines have been issued in October, 2010 regarding energy conservation in SEZs in the form of instruction No. 66. The details of the guidelines are available on the website: www.sezindia.nic.in. Further, the SEZs are subject to regular environmental laws, rules and regulations applicable in the country.

**Effect of closure of Gumma carton manufacturing unit
on apple growers of H.P.**

331. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to loss over Rs. 700 crore to apple growers of Himachal Pradesh because they have to pay Rs. 13 to Rs. 20 more per carton to make available the packaging material due to closure of carton manufacturing unit at Gumma;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) whether Government proposes to revive the Gumma carton manufacturing unit in view of providing relief to apple growers; and
- (d) if so, by when the said unit is likely to be restarted in the interest of apple growers of the State and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Lifting ban on export of non-basmati rice

332. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has lifted the ban on export of non-basmati rice;
- (b) if so, the details of the decision; and
- (c) the amount of rice expected to be lifted for export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Sir, the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) has allowed the export of 10 lakh tons of non-basmati rice, subject to a Minimum Export Price (MEP) of USD 400 per Ton, in its meeting held on 11th July, 2011. It was also decided that the export of non-basmati rice would be done by private parties from privately held stocks on purely commercial basis. Besides, prior registration of all export contracts would be done by DGFT on a first-come-first served basis subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Applications for allotment must be accompanied by irrevocable and confirmed letters of credit.
- (2) An applicant must submit a performance bank guarantee, along with the application, for a value equivalent to a value of 10% of applied quantity. In case of non-completion of exports, within a stipulated time frame, this bank guarantee is liable to be confiscated. However, a flexibility of + or -5% in performance will be provided.
- (3) Maximum quantity per applicant may be set at 1.25% of the total quantity released, i.e., 12,500 MT.

This decision has been notified by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) vide Notification No. 60(RE-2010)/2009-14 dated 19th July, 2011.

Fulfilling avowed objectives of SEZs

333. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) out of State-wise SEZs land allotted to each of SEZs, how much is agricultural land;
- (b) whether most of them are merely real estate operations and are not fulfilling their avowed objectives;
- (c) the functions performed by SEZs during the last three years;