

intended to develop indigenous capabilities and promote self-reliance in the defence sector. The Defence Production Policy notified recently, inter alia, also seeks to create conditions conducive for the indigenous industry to take an active role in indigenization and substantive self reliance in defence production. The Policy aims at encouraging indigenous design, development and manufacture of defence equipment.

- (c) The figures will be collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Export of Non-basmati rice

†17060. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision on 11 July, 2011 to export ten lac tonnes of non-basmati rice;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that a notification to this effect was issued on 19 July, 2011 at 9 p.m. and, as per, the notification dated 22 July, 2011 was fixed as the last date for registration;
- (d) if so, the facts thereof;
- (e) whether it was mandatory for the exporters to get buyers L.C. from bank in order to get themselves registered; and
- (f) whether the exporters have opposed this policy of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes 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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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 condition:

(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.

(c) and (d) The DGFT Notification No. 60 of 19.7.2011 was uploaded on the website of DGFT on 19.7.2011 at 8:31:53 PM. In the calendar of events of Notification No. 60 of 19.7.2011, the start date of receiving e-mail was prescribed as 10:00 hrs. on 21.7.2011 and close date as 17:00 hrs on 22.7.2011. In Notification No. 60 of 19.7.2011, it was mentioned that the e-mails received by DGFT headquarters before 1000 hrs on 21.7.2011 and after 1700 hrs on 22.7.2011 will not be taken into account. In the same notification it was also mentioned that in case more than one application (e-mail) is received from same IEC Number or same Applicant, only first e-mail will be taken into account. Subsequent e-mails will be ignored.

(e) and (f) Sir, as decided by EGOM, DGFT has notified all the conditions approved by EGOM and it was decided to first call for an intent to export through e-mail for shortlisting of the successful allottees by applying a cut whenever the quantity of 10 lakh MTs is exhausted on a first come first served basis. A wait list of applicants will also be maintained in case any of the successful allottee is not able to produce complete documents or obtain Registration Certificate. In the second stage the applicants were required to submit all the prescribed documents to the concerned Regional Authorities/DGFT (HQ) for scrutiny and issue of Registration Certificate enabling them to export the rice. The DGFT vide Trade Notice dated 27-07-2011 notified allocation of quantities of export of rice to Various exporters numbering 82 and a waiting list of 30 applicants. However, Hon'ble High Court

of Delhi in its interim order passed on 27-07-2011 in W.P. No. 5237/2011 filed by Kannu Aditya (India) Ltd. has directed that no allotment shall be made till the next date of hearing.

Review of guidelines for minimum space criteria for SEZs

1707. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to review the guidelines of minimum space criterion for Special Economic Zones as developers are facing problems in acquiring land;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the several projects of SEZs have been withdrawn after failing to acquire land; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) There is no proposal at present to review the guidelines of minimum space criterion for Special Economic Zones.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Requests are received for de-notification of notified SEZs as well as withdrawal of in-principle and formal approvals granted to various SEZ projects from time to time. Between December, 2008 and the present, the Board of Approval on SEZ has approved 33 such cases of denotification of notified SEZs subject to the refund of duty benefits availed, if any, by the developer. The reasons for these requests for de-notification of notified SEZs, withdrawal of in-principle and formal approvals granted to various SEZ projects, wherever indicated by the applicants, include economic meltdown, poor market response, non-availability of skilled labour force, no demand for IT/ITES space and imposition of Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) and Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT) on Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

(d) As provided under the SEZ Act and Rules the requests received for de-notification of notified SEZs as well as withdrawal of in-principle and formal approvals granted to various SEZ projects are considered by the Board of Approval on SEZs and approval is granted subject to conditions, including the refund of duty benefits availed, if any, by the developer.