

- (c) promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources;
- (d) creation of employment opportunities;
- (e) development of infrastructure facilities.

The SEZ units are under obligation to achieve positive Net Foreign Exchange (NFE) earnings to be calculated cumulatively for a period of 5 years from the commencement of production, failing which the units shall be liable for penal action under the provisions of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992. No significant cases of deviation from the desired objectives have been reported in SEZs in Andhra Pradesh.

Reduction in customs duty for import of rubber

2332. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any decision to reduce the customs duty for import of natural rubber;
- (b) what is the quantity of natural rubber proposed to be imported;
- (c) whether Government has consulted Rubber Board about this additional import; and
- (d) whether Government has received any representation against this import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The Government has allowed import of a limited quantity of 40,000 MT of dry form of rubber at a reduced duty of 7.5%.

Increase in import duty on apples

2333. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to raise the import duty on apple to safeguard the interests of apple growing States, especially Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, by when steps are likely to be taken;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that countries like China have flooded Indian market with cheap varieties of apple resulting huge losses to apple farmers; and
- (d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

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