

for the manufacture of Electronics items for supply to Defence Sector has been received on 06.09.2011 from the State of Kerala. The application was circulated on 07.09.2011 to the concerned Administrative Ministry, Ministry of Defence, Department of Defence Production and Ministry of Home Affairs, on receipt of whose comments the proposal would be considered by the Licensing Committee for grant of Industrial License.

Scarcity of raw material in engineering sector

959. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the engineering sector engaged in exports is facing lot of constraint due to scarcity of raw material;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in view of scarcity, the full potential and capacity of this sector is not tapped leading to idle capacity in this sector; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the action taken by Government in ensuring that the raw material particularly that is required to be imported is available to this sector?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Engineering sector exports during 2010-11 were US\$ 59.93 billion registering a growth of 84.10% over 2009-10 when the exports were US\$ 32.55 billion. In the current financial year, 2011-12, during the period April-October 2011, engineering exports are estimated to be US\$ 51.4 billion, a growth of 88.21% over the period April-October 2010 when the exports were US\$ 27.31 billion. There has not been any major shortage of raw materials for exports in this sector.

(c) Government has maintained low import duties for key raw materials required in the engineering sector.

Effect of duty free import of textile items from Bangladesh

960. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, Duty Free import of textile items mainly garments from Bangladesh would affect the garment hubs in the country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government is willing to have a pre-condition for the duty free import that the origin of fabric for these textile products should be India lone; and

(d) if so, response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. Confederation of Indian Textile Industry has represented that garment industry in India will be affected due to structural deficiencies in India's apparel manufacturing.

(b) Government after taking into consideration the significance of bilateral relationship with Bangladesh accepted the request of Government of Bangladesh for duty free access of 48 Ready Made Garment lines.

(c) While notifying the concessions for Bangladesh under SAFTA, no preconditions have been stipulated for the origin of fabric.

(d) Does not arise.

Changes in export policies for cotton, onion and rice

961. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what changes in the export policies for cotton, onion and rice have taken place since, 2004;

(b) the crop and year-wise details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for such frequent changes in the policy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) Export of cotton, onion and rice was free in 2004 as also now. There was Minimum Export Price (MEP) on onion both in 2004 and now. On basmati rice there is Minimum Export Price (MEP) now. Between 2004 and 2011, at various points of time there have been certain changes in the policy like (i) prohibition on exports (ii) exports permitted under license (iii) quantitative restrictions on exports and (iv) imposition of Minimum Export Price (MEP). The details of various policy changes announced either through Notification or through Public Notice are available on DGFT website <http://www.dgft.gov.in>.