

More concessions to set up SEZs

4352. SHRI D. RAJA :

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to allow more concession to set up Special Economic Zones (SEZs) which were not being built up despite allotment of land and approval by Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) In terms of Rule 6 of the SEZ Rules, validity of approval is for a period of three years within which time effective steps are to be taken by the developer to implement the approved proposal. On a request received from the developer, the Board of Approval can extend the validity period. The SEZs 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. However, no export targets are set for Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

The fiscal concessions and duty benefits allowed to SEZs are in built into the SEZ Act, 2005. These exemptions are in the nature of incentives for export and are consistent with the principles that guide export promotion initiatives of the Government in general. Ongoing review and reform, as necessary, of Government policy and procedure is inherent to Public Policy.

Proposed hike in import duty on gold

4353. SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to hike the duty on gold imports;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has consulted any stakeholders on the likely impact of this hike;

(d) whether a potential consequence of this hike might be an increase in illegal smuggling of gold in the country; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?