

- (b) if so, whether they have requested Government to step in; and
- (c) if so, what help Government has rendered to the Association?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) All India Rice Exporters Association had informed the Government that their members were facing problems in receiving payments for shipments of Rice made to Iran. The overdue amount was reported to be about Rs. 200.00 crores.

- (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Embassy of India, Tehran has taken up the matter with the relevant Government authorities in Iran for clearing the payments. As per available information, the defaulters are Iranian private companies and not Government entities.

**India ranking on UNIDO competitiveness industrial performance index, 2009**

4342. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's ranking at 42nd on United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) Competitiveness Industrial Performance Index, 2009, has remain unchanged since 2005 report;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian factories fail to move up on competition ladder while small countries such as Thailand, Mexico and the Philippines out-performed India and ranked 25, 30 and 33 respectively;

- (d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to achieve the ambitious targets for increasing the share of manufacturing in GDP to 25 per cent by 2025 from the current 16 per cent share?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Competitiveness Industrial Performance (CIP) index assesses industrial performance using indicators of an economy's ability to produce and export manufactured goods competitively. The CIP index comprises eight indicators which include industrial capacity, manufacturing export capacity, economy's share in world's manufacturing value added, economy's share in world's manufactured exports,

industrialization intensity and export quality. Though India's ranking remained unchanged at 42nd out of 118 countries, the Competitiveness Industrial Performance Index for India has improved from 0.190 in 2005 to 0.206 in 2009 and showing an improvement in the performance of manufacturing sector.

(c) and (d) The CIP index is based on criteria developed by 'United Nation's Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). As such, there are no specific comments to offer on comparison of India's performance with countries like Thailand, Mexico and the Philippines.

(e) The Government announced the National Manufacturing Policy in November, 2011 with the objective of enhancing the share of manufacturing in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) within a decade. The Government has also been taking various steps to improve competitiveness of the manufacturing in the country, which, *inter-alia*, include promotion and facilitation of foreign direct investment by rationalizing and liberalizing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy; initiatives such as 'Invest India' and 'e-biz' project under the 'Scheme for Investment Promotion'; undertaking industrial and other infrastructure development through public private initiatives; and incentivizing research and development and promoting industry related skills.

#### **Allowing import of gold by genuine users**

4343. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has allowed private sector Tata Group Company, Titan Industries to import gold directly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the move comes as a breather for traders, gold importers and jewellers who are against imposition of excise duty on unbranded jewellery; and

(d) if so, whether DGFT will also allow other genuine users to import gold directly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (d) For direct import of gold any firm / company (other than the Nominated Agencies) has to apply for import authorization to DGFT. In the current year, no import authorization for direct import of gold has been issued to any entity including M/s Titan Industries. Import authorisation for gold bullion has no bearing on imposition of excise duty on unbranded jewellery.