

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.