

There is a marginal increase in expenditure in 2011-12. Major portion of the Non-plan expenditure goes towards payment of pay and allowances. The increase is due to revision in pay scales as per Sixth Pay Commission's recommendations and increase in studies conducted by the Commission.

(c) Instructions on Economy Measures and Rationalization of Expenditure issued by the Department of Expenditure from time to time are scrupulously followed by the Commission.

Setting up Spices Parks by Spices Board

4358. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Spices Board has recently decided to set up Spices Parks in various parts of the country to promote the cultivation of spices on a large scale;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many Spices Parks will be set up in Karnataka, which has a vast potential for spices cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has approved establishment of Spice Parks to provide common infrastructure facilities in the major spices growing centres for cleaning, processing, colour sorting, grading and packing facilities etc. for value addition and quality improvement of spices. At present two Spices Parks viz., Chhindwara in Madhya Pradesh and Puttadi in Idukki district of Kerala have started functioning. A Spice Park at Jodhpur in Rajasthan was recently inaugurated on 7.4.2012.

(c) Before approving a proposal for setting up the Spice Park, a due diligence study is conducted to assess its feasibility and requirement based on spices grown in that area. Moreover, Government land free of cost should also be available. The number of Spices Parks to be established during the Twelfth Five Year Plan, including in Karnataka, will be decided in accordance with the outlay that is finalised.

Increasing industrial package for industries in Assam

4359. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the State Government of Assam to increase industrial package for industries;

- (b) if so, by when it is going to be increased; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government of Assam has requested for extending industrial package to food processing industries.

(b) Industrial Units engaged in food processing in the State of Assam may avail the benefits of National Mission of Food Processing under Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India under Twelfth Five Year Plan of the Government, *w.e.f.*, 1.04.2012.

- (c) Does not arise.

SEZs approved and notified in North East

4360. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of total number of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) approved and notified in North East up to now;
- (b) how many of them have become operational;
- (c) whether Government has assessed the performance of SEZs in the State; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (d) Two SEZs have been formally approved in the State of Nagaland out of which one stands notified. The SEZ has not become operational.

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).

Development Commissioner conducts monitoring of all SEZ Units and Developer in terms of SEZ Act, 2005 and Rules.