

(c) if so, what steps Government proposes to take to stop the entry of non-SEZ industries into SEZ and also persuade the Ministry of Finance to withdraw MAT on SEZ to protect the interest of FDI investors in SEZ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The provisions of Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) were not applicable to Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Developers and Units when the SEZ Act and Rules came into force in February, 2006. The Finance Act, 2011 brought in Minimum Alternate Tax for Developers and Units of SEZs with effect from 1st April, 2012. The provisions are uniformly applicable to all industries in a SEZ.

(b) and (c) Representations have been received in this regard. Any industry can avail the incentives under the SEZ scheme provided it fulfills the laid down criteria and commits to fulfil the obligations of a SEZ Developer or Unit, as the case may be.

Impact of FDI in multi brand retail on small retailers

†2644. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Head of Indian Branch of German Metro Cash and Carry has said that entry of not only foreign multinational companies but also big indigenous companies in retail market will adversely affect the interests of small shopkeepers;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a widespread and strong protest of the policy of increasing foreign participation in India's retail market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Managing Director, Metro Cash and Carry, was reported as having said that the entry of foreign retail majors, as well as large domestic players, could adversely impact the relevance of small traders. However, subsequently, a clarification from Metro Cash and Carry, was published in the Times of India on July 3, 2012, to the effect that the earlier report did not accurately reflect his views.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) Views, both for and against, have been received, on the Government's decision to permit FDI in multi-brand retail trade. Consultations have been held with the stakeholders, including Small and Medium Industry Associations, Food processing Industry Associations, Farmer Associations, Consumer Associations etc. The matter has also been taken up with the State Governments. The States of Delhi, Manipur, Assam, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and the Union Territory of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, have expressed support for the policy in writing. The Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, through press statements, has publicly endorsed the policy and asked for its implementation.

Setting up of Rail based Industrial Corridors

2645. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to set up Rail based Industrial Corridors in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar industrial corridors are proposed to be set up in Karnataka; 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) and (b) The Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) is proposed to be developed along the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) of the Ministry of Railways. A Concept Note has been prepared by the Ministry of Urban Development for inclusive economic development along the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor of Railways.

(c) Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Study Team has conducted Preliminary Study for Comprehensive Integrated Master Plan for Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor. However, this is not a rail based industrial corridor.

Status of industrial growth rate

†2646. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.