

and Medium Enterprise sector by way of higher allocation of funds, enhancing investment in the infrastructure sector focusing on Public Private Partnership and number of legislative measures to develop the financial sector.

Slowdown in merchandise exports

2. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether exports have witnessed a sharp slowdown with outbound merchandise inching up just 3.23 per cent to \$24.5 billion in April;

(b) whether it is also a fact that carpets export declined in 2011-12;

(c) whether the study by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) will form the basis for sops likely to be offered by Government to exporters; and

(d) if so, what is the time-frame?

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

(c) and (d) No formal study has been conducted. The Government of India continuously monitors the global economic developments and takes need based measures from time to time.

Apprehension of political parties against FDI in retail trade

†3. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that certain political parties of the country has cautioned Government by expressing their views that the livelihood of the small shopkeepers of unorganised sector will be adversely affected by promoting foreign capital investment in retail market of the country;

(b) if so, the name of those parties whose views have been expressed in the country so far; and

(c) whether Government has taken any decision after considering upon these views?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Views, both for and against, have been received from various stakeholders, including

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi