

**Corruption charges against MMTC officials**

\*248. SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to "Bureaucracy Today" August, 2012, wherein an article entitled "MMTC: Trading corruption" alleges corruption charges against ten senior officers; and

(b) if so, what action Government proposes to take either to exonerate them from these allegations or to initiate appropriate action to look into those allegations?

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

(b) Department of Commerce has taken appropriate action on all complaints received in the Department pertaining to Board level officers of MMTC. Wherever the matters have reached conclusion, the Department of Commerce has imposed penalty on those against whom charges have been found to be proved through departmental disciplinary action, in consultation with CVC. In some cases criminal prosecution has also been undertaken. MMTC has similarly taken appropriate action with regard to below-board level officials of MMTC.

**Clearance of bills received from Maharashtra**

\*249 SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra has sent certain proposal for amendments in Maharashtra Municipal Corporations. Municipal Councils and Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2010 and the Maharashtra Municipal Corporation, Municipal Councils (second amendment) Bill, 2010;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) how much time it will take for its clearance?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations. Municipal Councils and Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2010 and the Maharashtra Municipal Corporation, Municipal Councils (Second Amendment) Bill, 2010 were forwarded by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Ministry of Urban

Development for comments on 14.6.2010 and 7.9.2010 respectively. The Ministry of Urban Development conveyed its no objection to the above two bills on 30.7.2010 and 24.5.2011 respectively to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils and Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2010 has since been assented to by the President on 22.2.2012 and same has been conveyed to the Secretary to the Governor, Maharashtra on 8.8.2011 by the Ministry Home Affairs.

The Maharashtra Municipal Corporation, Municipal Councils (Second Amendment) Bill 2010 has since been assented to by the President on 3.8.2011 and same has been conveyed to the Secretary to the Governor, Maharashtra on 8.8.2011 by the Minister Home Affairs.

#### **Unresolved issues in India-EU FTA**

\*250 DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India and the European Union (EU) are likely to sign a Free Trade Agreement (FTA);
- (b) if so, the details of the unresolved issues in the negotiations;
- (c) whether Government has ensured such provisions in agreement against possible non-tariff barriers in respect of our exports to EU; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) The Government of India is negotiating a bilateral Broad Based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) with the European Union (EU) and negotiations were launched in Brussels on 28-29th June, 2007 based on the recommendations of the High Level Trade Group at the 7th India-EU Summit in October, 2006 in Helsinki. Till now, fourteen rounds of negotiations have been held and negotiations across various sectors are ongoing and are at an advanced stage. As in consistent with previous and established practice in ongoing negotiations, it would be premature to share the details of negotiations, including the unresolved issues and the efforts being made to resolve them on account of sensitivities involved. Disclosures before finalisation of the Agreement may adversely affect India's position in the negotiations. Views of