

Ministerial Commission (JMC) Meeting was held on 29th January, 2013 in New Delhi. The meeting was jointly chaired by Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles, India and Dr. Craig Emerson MP, Australian Minister for Trade and Competitiveness and Minister assisting the Prime Minister on Asian Century Policy.

The issues discussed during the JMC Meeting were institutional framework for growth in bilateral trade and investment, initiatives of India Australia CEO Forum, Australia and India's mutual interests in the effectiveness of global and regional economic institutions, launch of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations, strengthening of the East Asia Summit as a forum that incorporated all major economies in the India-Pacific region, G-20, WTO, IOR-ARC, Education and skill development, agriculture cooperation and food security , people-to-people links, etc.

(c) and (d) During the JMC Meeting, both sides reviewed the bilateral co-operation in sectors like Agriculture, Civil nuclear energy cooperation agreement and Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) etc. These are incorporated in the 'Joint Statement'. The 'Joint Statement' may be accessed from the website of Department of Commerce, Government of India at <http://commerce.gov.in> under the Head: International Trade, Subhead: Joint Statements and Minutes of Meeting.

#### **Slow growth of industrial output**

944. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the first nine months of the year, the industrial output grew by just 0.7 per cent, as against a growth of 3.7 per cent during the corresponding period in the previous year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is proposing any measures to sustainably and significantly increase the manufacturing output; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The moderation in the growth rate of production of industries in the recent years can be attributed to both domestic as well as international factors. These include hardening of interest rates, moderation in domestic demand, inflationary pressure, rising input cost, Eurozone crisis and decline in external demand etc.

(c) and (d) The Government is taking a number of steps to accelerate the industrial growth of the country. The measures taken recently include announcement of the National Manufacturing Policy (NMP), 2011 with objectives of increasing the share of manufacturing in GDP to 25% and creating 100 million additional jobs over a decade. The policy, *inter-alia*, envisages setting up of National Investment and Manufacturing Zones (NIMZs), which are industrial townships, benchmarked to the best manufacturing hubs in the world. So far eight NIMZs have been announced along the Delhi Mumbai industrial Corridor (DMIC) in the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Four other NIMZs outside the DMIC have been granted 'in-principle' approval - two in Andhra Pradesh and one each in Karnataka and Maharashtra. NMP also envisages skill development as a priority area.

Over the years, the Government has also simplified and rationalised the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy, to attract FDI flow into the country.

The other important steps taken involve Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project along the dedicated freight corridor, launching of the e-biz Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan, and creating a joint venture 'Invest India' in association with FICCI as a dedicated agency for promoting foreign investment in India. Besides, incentives are given for helping industries in difficult areas through Plan Schemes of Transport Subsidy, special package of incentives for Special Category States, North-East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy, 2007 and specific programmes like Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme, Indian Leather Development Programme etc.

Sectoral Ministries/Departments in the Government are also implementing various schemes and programmes and taking measures for boosting industrial growth of the respective sectors.

In addition, the various measures announced in the Budget Proposals for 2013-14 highlight the Government's priorities for arresting the moderation in industrial growth.