

Interest subvention scheme to boost exports

1727. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced some additional incentives like the 2 per cent Interest Subvention Scheme to boost exports and extend the scheme up to March, 2014;

(b) whether Government has introduced a pilot scheme of Interest Subvention for Project Exports through EXIM Bank for countries of SAARC region, Africa and Myanmar;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the outcome of pilot scheme so far;

(d) the extent to which export of India has increased after the extension of pilot scheme; and

(e) the details whether new countries have also been added under the Focus Market Scheme on the FoB value of exports in the recent past?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir. 2% Interest Subvention Scheme to specified sector has been extended upto 31.3.2014. Additionally, the scheme has been extended to 134 tariff lines of Engineering Sector till 31.3.2014.

(b) to (d) A pilot scheme of 2% interest subvention has been announced for project exports through EXIM Bank for countries of SAARC Region, Africa and Myanmar. The objective of the scheme is to help boost India's project exports by providing long term concessional credit through the Exim Bank. The Scheme has not been operationalised so far.

(e) Recently five new countries have been added under the Focus Market Scheme for exports with effect from 01.01.2013. These countries are Cayman Islands, New Zealand, Latvia, Lithuania and Bulgaria.

Reduction in import of diamonds and their export

1728. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Diamond Industry that brought billions of dollar as

foreign exchange to the country has been fast dwindling over the last few years and there has been a reduction in both the import and subsequent export of diamonds by India slipped from 154.20 million carats in 2010-11 to 131.40 million carats in 2011-12;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether China's huge investment in Africa in this sector is a danger to Indian Diamond cutting and polishing industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government is looking for sources other than Africa for long-term supply contracts for diamonds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been a decline in the import and export of diamonds in the year 2011-12 as compared 2010-11. The details of quantity of import and export of diamonds for the year 2010-11 and 2011-12 are as under:

Items	(In Thousand Carats)			
	Import		Export	
	2010-11	2011-12	2010-11	2011-12
Rough Diamonds	128161.38	113265.07	10694.10	12155.12
Cut & Polished Diamonds	54065.96	39545.78	68257.37	50498.89
TOTAL	182227.34	152810.85	78951.47	62654.01

Source: DGCI&S.

(c) and (d) India has established itself as the International diamond manufacturing hub and has dominated the world's cutting and polishing sectors for several years. However, China's efforts for direct supply of rough diamonds from African governments coupled with cheap labour force is a major point of concern for Indian diamond industry.

(e) With the active support of the Government, Indian diamantaires have been able to secure long-term contracts for procuring diamonds from Russia. This

issue is taken up by the Government during bilateral meetings with the diamond producing countries.

Mini cement plants

1729. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the criterion for determination of a Mini Cement Plant in the country;
- (b) the State-wise details of number of such plants and their annual production capacity; and
- (c) the State-wise details of quantity of cement produced from the Mini Cement Plants during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHKAN): (a) As per Excise Notification No. 4/ 2007-Central Excise dated 1st March, 2007 "Mini Cement plant" means:—

- (i) a factory using vertical shaft kiln, with installed capacity not exceeding 300 tonnes per day or 99,000 tonnes per annum and the total clearances of cement produced by the factory, in a financial year, shall not exceed 1,09,500 tonnes; or
- (ii) a factory using rotary kiln, with installed capacity not exceeding 900 tonnes per day or 2,97,000 tonnes per annum and the total clearances of cement produced by the factory, in a financial year, shall not exceed 3,00,000 tonnes.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Tea plantation in Bihar

1730. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that tea plantations in Kishanganj, Bihar has made quantum jumps and thus Bihar has been put in the tea map of the country;
- (b) whether in the span of two decades the plantation has risen from zero acre to 25,000 acres and reversed the migration of workers;