

implications. In furtherance of the above strategy, the Government had introduced Focus Market Scheme and Focus Product Scheme to encourage exports of traditional as well as non-traditional products and to certain markets. Government has recently included 5 new markets in the Focus Market Scheme and approximately 100 new products in Focus Product Scheme. The last such incentives were announced in December, 2012. Presently sectoral consultations are going on with apex trade bodies and industry. Requests received during such consultations will be examined and appropriate action taken within the available resources.

Amendment in public records Act, 1993

2497. SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the increasing volume of Government business being transacted through computer and related information technology instruments, Government is contemplating any changes in the Public Records Act, 1993 and in the modalities and procedure of maintenance of Government Archives; and

(b) if so, the measures being thought of to ensure the authenticity of electronic records created through electronic transactions?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Regarding the authenticity of electronic records and their transaction, the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 have incorporated the legal recognition of electronic records, legal recognition of digital signature and electronic signature, and use of electronic records and digital signatures in Government and its agencies under sections 4, 5 and 6 respectively.

Regarding the modalities and procedure of maintenance of Government records the provisions have been incorporated in the first edition of the 'Central Secretariat Manual of e-Office Procedure' (2012) brought out by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances.