

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): (a) and (b) A meeting of the High Level Committee on Manufacturing (HLCM) was convened on 9th July, 2013 to discuss the strategy for boosting competitiveness and output in two sectors- textiles and steel and for formulating a long term approach in three strategic industries- civilian aircraft manufacture, electric and hybrid vehicles and advanced materials and composites. Deliberations took place on short and long term strategies for the aforestated five areas.

(c) and (d) The High Level Committee on Manufacturing took a decision for the development of civilian aircraft of a 70-100 seater range to begin with, in India. A High Level Steering Group under chairman NMCC has been tasked with working out the modalities of this programme.

Review of exports targets

333. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is reviewing the target of US \$500 billion in exports by March, 2014;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had taken a decision to double the exports by 2013-14 two years back, but had to revise the target on many accounts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

On the back drop of robust export growth and favourable global economic environment, Department of Commerce, in May 2011, had prepared a strategy for Doubling Merchandise Exports in three years from US\$ 246 billion in 2010-11 to US\$ 500 billion in 2013-14.

The Export Target for the year 2013-14, for Merchandise Trade, as finalised by DOC is US\$325 billion.

(c) and (d) The target was revised due to factors such as: weak industrial growth, higher cost of credit, rupee depreciation, Euro zone sovereign debt crisis, recession in developed economies and sluggish global economic growth which have adversely impacted India's exports.

Decline in proposals for setting up SEZs

334. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the number of requests for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government proposes to make some amendments in the SEZ Act; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposals made in this regard along with the progress made so far in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Since the enactment of the Special Economic Zones Act 2005 and the attendant Rules in February, 2006, a total of 576 SEZs have been approved, of which 392 have been notified as on 31st July, 2013. Exports from SEZs have increased from about Rs. 34,615 Crore in 2006-07 to about Rs. 4,76,159 Crore in 2012-13. SEZs are primarily private investment driven. The number of applications for setting up SEZs received in recent years has shown a decline compared to earlier years. Stakeholder feedback attributes the decline in investor interest to factors like changed fiscal incentives regime for SEZs, global economic slowdown and difficulty in availability of land parcels for SEZs etc.

(c) and (d) No Sir. However, in order to address the challenges being faced by