

the Board from the Head Office and the three foreign offices primarily included generic promotion through participation in fairs and exhibitions, trade facilitation through arranging Buyer-Seller Meets, exchange of trade delegations (inbound and outbound), information dissemination through gathering of market intelligence etc.

Tea producers of the country are being extended help through Plantation Development Scheme covering (i) Replantation/replacement of old tea areas aged above 50 years; (ii) Rejuvenation and consolidation of the old tea areas in the hilly regions; (iii) Creation of irrigation facilities for combating drought; (iv) Mechanization of the field activities such as plucking, pruning, uprooting of old tea bushes, (v) Extension Planting in the cultivable areas available within the grant areas of tea gardens, (vi) Organic tea cultivation in the new areas as well as conversion of conventional tea area for organic tea production. Having regard to significant contribution from small grower sector, a separate Directorate for addressing the developmental needs of the small growers has been set up with its head quarter at Dibrugarh, Assam. Primarily, this Directorate would look into the aspects of registration of small growers in each and every tea growing state and maintain a closer interface with the growers to organize themselves into Producers' Societies. Such societies are expected to serve as focal points for the Directorate's extension activities aimed at improving quality, consistency and price realization.

#### **Investigation into corruption charges of Walmart**

315. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the details of finding of the investigation into corruption charges of Walmart in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): The Government has decided to appoint one-man Committee regarding media reports concerning Walmart *vide* resolution dated 31.1.2013. The Committee has been asked to submit its report within three months from issuance of the resolution.

#### **Launch of Government to Business (G2B) Portal**

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

(a) whether Department of Industrial Policy and promotion (DIPP) has announced the launch of eBiz, India's first Government to Business Portal developed by Infosys;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the eBiz platform will provide a one-stop shop for convenient and efficient online services for the investor and business communities in India, reducing delays and complexity in obtaining information and services; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As a part of Government's initiative to improve the business environment and the ease of doing business in the country, the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry launched the eBiz portal on 28.01.2013 comprising Licenses and Permits Services component that will allow business users to obtain a customized list of licenses, permits, and regulations that they require or need to comply with across all levels of government.

(c) and (d) eBiz will serve as a 24×7 online single-window system for providing efficient and convenient Government to Business (G2B) services to the business community, by reducing the complexity in obtaining information and services related to starting businesses in India, and dealing with licenses and permits across the business life-cycle. It will function as one-stop-shop for obtaining information and forms; submission of forms/applications; online payment and routing of fees; and routing of forms/applications and fees to various departments for licenses, permits, registrations, approvals, clearances, permissions, periodic filings, and compliances throughout the life-cycle of a business entity.

#### **Mandatory use of solar power by SEZs**

317. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government in its attempts for greening its rapid industrialization plan has made it mandatory for all Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to power at least a quarter of their lighting needs with solar energy or by renewable energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of SEZs which are following the guidelines in this regard;

(c) the amount of fuel and electricity likely to be saved by these SEZs; and