

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Home Minister had written letters on 30th September, 2013 to the Chief Ministers of all the State Governments requesting them to take the following actions at the earliest and to bestow their personal attention on these in order to expedite trials:

- (i) All States/UTs should constitute Special Courts in consultation with the High Courts of competent jurisdiction for trial of terror related cases on a day to day basis.
- (ii) All State Governments should appoint Special Public Prosecutors for trial of these terror cases.
- (iii) The terror cases should take precedence over other cases pending trial before such Special Courts.
- (iv) All the Law Enforcing Agencies should be sensitized with regard to communal harmony and social justice while ensuring zero tolerance for terrorism by any person or group irrespective of which community he or they may belong to.
- (v) In all cases of malafide arrest of any member of a minority community by the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), strict and prompt action should be taken against the erring Police officers/officials.
- (vi) Wrongfully arrested persons should not only be released forthwith, but should be suitably compensated and rehabilitated to join the mainstream in order to lead a normal life of dignity.

#### **Assessing the performance and impact of SEZs**

\*219. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to assess the performance and overall impact of SEZs particularly on rural and agro industries;

(b) if so, the year-wise details thereof in terms of targets and actual growth in

exports and foreign direct investments, total revenue generated *vis-a-vis* total relief provided in the form of concessions, rebates and exemptions during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether SEZs have been able to attain their objectives, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and corrective steps taken including an increase in overall export incentive, particularly for castor oil business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): (a) and (b) While no specific studies to assess the performance and overall impact of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) on rural and agro industries across the country have been carried out, studies commissioned by the Department of Commerce on the socio-economic impact of SEZs have shown that SEZs have created a significant local area impact in terms of direct as well as indirect employment, emergence of new activities, changes in consumption pattern and social life, human development facilities such as education, healthcare etc. In a short span of about seven years since SEZ Act and Rules were notified in February, 2006, formal approvals have been granted for setting up of 572 SEZs out of which 389 have been notified and 181 are exporting at present. Out of the total employment provided to 12,39,845 persons in SEZs as a whole employment to 11,05,141 persons is incremental employment generated after February, 2006 when the SEZ Act came into force. This is apart from millions of man days of employment created by the developers for infrastructure activities. Physical exports from the SEZs has increased from Rs.3,64,478 crore in 2011-12 to Rs.4,76,159 crore in 2012-13, registering a growth of 31%. There has been overall growth of export of 1,985% over past eight years (2005-06 to 2012-13). The total physical exports from SEZs as on 31st December, 2013 i.e. in the first three quarter of the current financial year 2013-14, has been to the tune of Rs.3,77,283 crore approximately, registering a growth of 7% over the exports of corresponding period of the previous financial year. The total investment in SEZs till 31st December, 2013 is Rs.2,88,477 crore approximately, including Rs.2,65,368 crore in the newly notified SEZs set up after SEZ Act, 2005.

(c) and (d) In order to impart stability to SEZ regime and to achieve generation of greater economic activity and employment through the establishment of SEZs, Special Economic Zone Act, 2005 had been enacted in February 2006 supported by SEZ Rules, 2006. The main objectives of the SEZ Act are:

- (a) generation of additional economic activity
- (b) promotion of exports of goods and services
- (c) promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources
- (d) creation of employment opportunities
- (e) development of infrastructure facilities

In terms of SEZ Act, 2005 and Rules framed thereunder, no export or foreign direct investment (FDI) targets are set for SEZs. SEZ units are required to achieve positive Net Foreign Exchange earnings within a period of five years from the date of commencement of production. Data on actual growth in exports and foreign direct investment in SEZs during the last three years and the current year has been given in the table below:

Years	Value of exports (Rs. in crore)	% Growth	Value of FDI (Rs. in crore)	% Growth
2010-2011	3,15,868	43.11%	22,790	35.83%
2011-2012	3,64,478	15.39%	11,466	-49.69%
2012-2013	4,76,159	31%	14,670	28%
2013-2014 (April - December, 2013)	3,77,283 *	7%	15,216*	14%

\*As on 30.12.2013.

Relief provided to SEZ developers and units in the form of concessions, rebates and exemptions are intrinsic to the SEZ policy and are specifically provided under the SEZ Act and Rules, and are in the nature of incentives to achieve SEZ objectives.

As the above figures would indicate the SEZs have by and large been able to attain the objectives for which these were set up. However, on-going review and reform, as necessary, of Government policy and procedure is inherent to Public Policy.

#### **Declaration of Oriya as a classical language**

\*220. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state: