

(c) The common traded grade of NR in India is RSS 4. Average price of RSS 4 during April-December, 2013 was Rs. 171.62 per kg as compared to Rs. 182.30 per kg during April-December, 2012 which shows a lower realization.

(d) Import duty on dry forms of rubber was revised from "20% or Rs. 20 per kg whichever is lower" to "20% or Rs. 30 per kg whichever is lower" with effect from 20 December, 2013. The Government is continuously monitoring the price trends in the domestic market enabling suitable interventions to be taken as and when required to protect the interests of the rubber growers.

Arbitration award under BIPA and CECA

1555. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any arbitration award was granted against the Government of India under any arbitration procedure initiated under Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement (BIPA) or Comprehensive Economic Co-operation Agreement (CECA) during 1st January, 2002 to 31st July, 2013; and

(b) if so, the details of the arbitration awards *viz.*, the number of arbitration awards against Government of India, the amount of award, the name of the awardees and the name of other country who is party to the BIPA/CECA under the arbitration initiated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): (a) Government of India had received an adverse arbitration award in the case of M/s. White Industries Australia Limited Vs Republic of India UNCITRAL arbitration in Singapore under the India - Australia Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement. This tribunal award is available on the internet (<http://italaw.com/sites/default/files/case-documents/ita0906.pdf>).

(b) In relation to the arbitration award relating to M/s. White Industries Australia Limited (WIAL), who was an awardee in the case, Coal India Ltd. paid Australian Dollar 98,12,077 to the investor. No other country is a party to the BIPA/CECA under the arbitration initiated.

Incentives to industries to boost the economic growth

1556. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any measures have been taken by the Ministry to instill confidence in the industries considering the slow pace of economic growth in the country, if so the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Ministry have studied the impact of recent economic slowdown that has been reported and prevalent in other parts of the world; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): (a) Yes, Sir, the Ministry has taken a number of measures to boost the industrial growth of the country. These, *inter-alia*, include announcement of National Manufacturing Policy (NMP), 2011, simplification and rationalization of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy, implementation of Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project, conceptualisation of Amritsar Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC), launching of the e-biz Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan, and creating a joint venture 'Invest India' in association with FICCI. Besides, incentives are given for helping industries in difficult areas through plan schemes of Transport Subsidy/Freight Subsidy Scheme, special package of incentives for Special Category States, North-East Industrial & Investment Promotion Policy, 2007, and specific programmes like Modified Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme, Indian Leather Development Programmes etc.

(b) and (c) The Ministry is carefully monitoring the impact of global economic slowdown on domestic economy. The industrial growth as reflected by the Index of industrial Production slowed down in the last two years. This has been on account of a number of factors including, *inter-alia*, economic slowdown in other parts of the world.

Higher pesticide residue levels in vegetables exported to Saudi Arabia

1557. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Saudi Arabia, fifth largest importer of fresh vegetables from India, has threatened to take strong action against consignments from India due to higher-than permissible pesticide residue levels; and

(b) what damage control measures are being taken by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) to address these issues much before other gulf countries importing fresh vegetables from India follow suit?