

Revenue leakages under SEZ, 2005

2186. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the huge revenue leakages reported under the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and vast tracts of land diverted to real estate developers in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the necessary steps taken in this regard to reduce the leakages and loss of revenues; and

(c) whether the Ministry has quantified the revenue forgone in the form of subsidies under the Special Economic Zones, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): (a) to (c) Setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and its functioning is regulated as per the provisions of SEZ Act 2005 and Rules framed thereunder. There are adequate safeguards in the SEZ Rules, 2006 to prevent SEZs from indulging in real estate business. In terms of Rule 11(9) of the SEZ Rules, 2006, sale of land in an SEZ is not allowed. The Approval Committees under the respective Development Commissioners constituted for each Zone, which comprise representatives from Customs, Income-tax, State Governments etc. monitor the performance of the SEZ Units. Such monitoring includes scrutiny of Annual Performance Report (APR), Quarterly Performance Report (QPR) and details of rent recovery furnished by the SEZ units. Failure to meet the requirements of the SEZ Scheme or any violation of its provisions attracts action under Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.

There is no provision of granting subsidies to SEZ Developers and Units under the SEZ Act, 2005 and Rules framed thereunder.

Review of policy on meat export

2187. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has asked the Ministry to review the policy on meat export;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Ministry in this regard; and

(c) whether the Ministry is planning to include aspects related to cruelty to the animals and unhygienic conditions in the slaughter houses in the policy, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court in their judgment in the case of Civil Appeal No. 3968 of 1994 of Akhil Bharat Krishi Sangh Vs. State of Andhra Pradesh and others dated 29.3.2006 had asked the Central Government to review the meat export policy. Accordingly, the matter was reviewed in the Department of Commerce in consultation with the Department of Legal Affairs, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Department of Environment & Forests and Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in the light of the Directive Principles of State Policy, existing Foreign Trade Policy for meat exports, Livestock wealth of India, Meat production vs. export of meat and Milk production in India. The views of Akhil Bharat Krishi Goseva Sangh, the petitioner, were also heard. After detailed consultation the Government decided that the existing meat export policy needed no change and a speaking Order No. 3/8/2006-EP(Agri-III) dated 3rd May, 2007 was issued in compliance of order of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

(c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries had launched the scheme for Setting up/Modernization of Abattoirs during 2008-09. This is a comprehensive scheme, which includes establishment of modern abattoirs and modernization of existing abattoirs. The scheme envisages a grant of 50% in general areas and 75% in difficult areas for cost of Plant and Machinery (P&M) and Technical Civil Work (TCW) and other eligible items subject to a maximum of Rs. 15.00 crore per abattoir.

As regard the hygiene standards, the Government of India has laid down standards for export of meat which include standards for abattoir, processing plants. Registration of abattoirs and meat processing plants is done by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), a body under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

During inspection, focus is on hygiene and sanitary conditions maintained by the plant, *ante-mortem* and *post-mortem* inspections, infrastructure, staff hygiene, laboratory facilities, record maintenance, etc.

All the Export Oriented Units have a mandatory requirement of HACCP certification and ISO standards to instil confidence in the consumer about quality and safety of meat.