

(c) As per extant FDI policy FDI up to 100% is permitted under the Government approval route in Single Brand Product Retail Trade, subject to specified conditions. No decision has been taken with regards the Multi-Brand Retail Trade (MBRT) policy.

Setting up of working group to boost exports

277. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a Working Group to boost exports and promote competitiveness of the domestic industry;

(b) the thrust areas that have been identified to increase India's competitiveness; and

(c) the action plan to reduce the transaction costs to achieve the objective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) At present there is no proposal to set up such a Working Group. However, an Inter Ministerial Committee was set up in 2013 to suggest short and medium term measures to enhance exports from MSME sector. The Committee examined the gaps/inadequacies/lacunae which may be obstructing the growth of exports of MSME in India and submitted its report in July, 2013.

(b) Department of Commerce had also prepared a strategy paper in 2011 for doubling Merchandise Exports in three years from US\$ 246 billion in 2010-11 to US\$ 500 billion in 2013-14. Subsequently, in view of the global slowdown of economy, export Target for the year 2013-14 was revised to US\$ 325 billion. An aggressive product promotion strategy for high value items that have a strong manufacturing base is the main focus of the overall growth strategy. The Strategy paper of 2011 had identified certain products like, engineering goods, drugs, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, electronic, leather products and textiles etc. to boost exports.

(c) The endeavour of the Government is to simplify the procedure and reduce transaction cost in exports. With this objective in mind, Government has set up the second Task Force on Transaction Cost to identify the reasons for high transaction cost in exports, to identify the areas where Indian exporters face administrative impediments that lead to increase in transaction cost and to suggest guidelines/steps for removal of procedural complexities and to move towards transparent and increasingly paperless processing through digital platform. The Committee is yet to submit its report.

Exports target for 2013-14

278. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had fixed export target for the financial year 2013-14, if so, the details thereof;