

### Targets for Employment generation and Investment in SEZs

3693. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the targets fixed for employment generation and investment in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) during the last three years;
- (b) to what extent the targets have been achieved; and
- (c) the targets fixed for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) In Order to impart stability to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) regime and to achieve / generation of greater economic activity and employment through the establishment of SEZs, Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 had been enacted in June, 2005 supported by SEZs Rules, 2006. The main objectives of the SEZs Act are:-

- (i) generation of additional economic activity;
- (ii) promotion of exports of goods and services;
- (iii) promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources;
- (iv) creation of employment opportunities;
- (v) development of infrastructure facilities.

Employment generated and Investment made in Special Economic Zones during the last three years is as under: (₹ in crore)

Financial Year(s)	Employment* (Persons)	Investment*
2011-2012	8,44,916	2,01,875
2012-2013	10,74,904	2,36,717
2013-2014	12,83,309	2,96,663

\* Calculated on cumulative basis.

### Obligations under Scheduled Rollout of TFA

3694. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India is under compulsion to accept the scheduled rollout of Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) while it is finalized by July 31; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and how it will affect the country's action on food security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) During the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) held in Bali, Indonesia in December 2013, WTO members, including India, agreed on a Bali Package comprising an agreement on Trade Facilitation and issues relating to agriculture and development.

As per the Ministerial Decision on the Trade Facilitation Agreement, a Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation was established in the WTO to perform various functions necessary to bring the Agreement into force, which includes the drawing up of a Protocol of Amendment to make the Trade Facilitation Agreement a part of the WTO Agreement. The Ministerial Decision further stated that the General Council shall meet no later than 31 July 2014 to, *inter alia*, adopt the Protocol drawn up by the Preparatory Committee, and to open the Protocol for acceptance until 31 July 2015.

However, following the Bali Ministerial meeting, while there was progress on the Trade Facilitation Agreement, other decisions including one on public stockholding for food security purposes and other development issues were sidelined. India, therefore, took the stand that till there is an assurance of commitment to find a permanent solution on public stockholding and on all other Bali deliverables, including those for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), it would be difficult to join the consensus on the Protocol of Amendment for the Trade Facilitation Agreement. India has followed this up with suggestions on the procedure to be followed in order to ensure time-bound delivery of an outcome on public stockholding for food security and has also urged that a similar approach be adopted on all other elements of the Bali Package.

The stand taken by India is aimed at achieving a permanent solution on the issue of public stockholding for food security purposes so that the country's efforts to ensure food security remain consistent with its international obligations.

#### **Review of policy of SEZs**

3695. SHRI D. RAJA:

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to have a unique labour law for Special Economic Zones, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government held discussions with the Development Commissions of the zones in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is actively considering to review the policy of the Special Economic Zones; and