

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) Sir, as per SEZ Act and Rules framed thereunder the Central Government shall have no authority to relax any law relating to the welfare of the labour in the SEZs. All Labour laws are applicable in Special Economic Zones. The rights of the workers/labour are therefore protected / under the SEZ Act. Ongoing review and reform, as necessary, of Government policy and procedure is inherent to Public Policy. The Government, on the basis of inputs/suggestions received from stakeholders on the policy and operational framework of the SEZ Scheme, periodically reviews the policy and operational framework of SEZs and takes necessary measures so as to facilitate speedy and effective implementation of SEZ policy.

Procedures and documentation in export/import trade

3696. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a variety of procedures and documentation exists in carrying out import/export trade;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Economic Survey, 2013- 14 has pointed out the need for simpler procedures for documentation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the remedial measures being taken by government to lessen procedures and documentation in import/export trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) Exporters and importers need to comply with the business and regulatory requirements of a number of agencies in India as well as in the importing countries. Most important agencies are Customs, Shipping companies and Banks. Each of these agencies prescribe standard procedures/ documentation for exports and imports. Filing of Shipping Bill for exports and Bill of Entry for import are the most important procedures for Customs. Issue of Bill of lading is the main procedure of shipping companies. Establishing letter of credit or accepting documents relating to a foreign exchange transaction is the most important procedure relating to banks for exports and imports.

(c), (d) and (e) Yes Sir. The Economic survey 2013-14 has highlighted the need for trade facilitation by reducing the number of documents, transaction cost and time for export and import. Government has introduced a number of measures to simplify

export and import related procedures and documentation and make these available online for the users. Following major Trade Facilitation measures have been adopted by the Government:

- (i) Most of India's export and import documents are processed at Customs through the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) system.
- (ii) Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has introduced 24x7 customs clearance facility at major ports.
- (iii) Electronic Bank Realization Certification (eBRC) system introduced by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) ensures secured online flow of export related Foreign Exchange realization information from Banks to DGFT.
- (iv) Exporters can file online applications to avail benefits under the Foreign Trade Policy Schemes. They can also make online payment for application fee.

Export Infrastructure

3697. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India is lagging behind in providing export infrastructure like port connectivity, coordination of roads, cargo handling facilities, etc;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of steps being taken by Government to build up such export infrastructure to facilitate increase in export trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) It is the consistent endeavor of Government to improve the export related infrastructure to promote exports. India possesses adequate infrastructure but inadequacies are reported, time to time, in seamless transport through road, railports and airports.

- (c) Details are given in Statement.

Statement

Some salient steps taken by Government

1. To address constraints in the smooth movement of international cargo and resolving the issues relating to bottlenecks in trade by sea, air, and rail route, surfacing from time to time two high level committees, viz. the Standing Committee on Promotion of Exports by Sea (SCOPE - SHIPPING) and the Standing Committee on Promotion of Exports by Air (SCOPE- AIR) are