

East-West corridors, Phase-III & IV of the National Highways Development Project, upgradation of National and State Highways to minimum two lane standards.

15. Port connectivity programme has been taken up under Phase I of National Highway Development Project (NHDP) to provide National Highway connectivity to the major ports of the country. The development of the 4 lane connectivity to 12 Major Ports was approved under NHDP at a cost of Rs 1896 crores in Dec 2000 for implementation through Special Purpose Vehicles. The connectivity to Kandla port on NH 8 was already on before the NHDP. Kolkatta port connectivity and Mumbai port connectivity have been dropped. 4 laning has already been completed in 7 port roads.
16. The Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) primarily involves establishment of a dedicated freight corridor (DFC) of around 1,500 km between Delhi and Mumbai with terminals at Dadri in the national capital region (NCR) of Delhi and the Jawaharlal Nehru Port near Mumbai. The area around the DFC would be developed as the DMIC. The DMIC is setting up 7 industrial corridors in Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra. The Amritsar-Delhi-Kolkata corridor, will pass through UP, Uttarakhand, Bihar and West Bengal. Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) is building Multi Modal Logistics Parks at various locations including around the DFC. The first phase of Multi Modal Logistics Park has been operationalised in Rajasthan at Kathuwas. CONCOR is also developing such parks at Vishakhapatnam, Jharsaguda, Nagpur and Naya Raipur.

Trade reforms

3698.DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Economic Survey, 2013- 14 has highlighted the need for immediate trade reforms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures being taken by Government for trade reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Yes Sir. The Economic Survey 2013-14 has highlighted some important issues that need to be addressed to achieve higher export growth.

- (b) Some major issues affecting India's merchandise export sector identified in the survey are product diversification, export infrastructure, focus on useful regional

trading blocks, inverted duty structure, export promotion schemes, Special Economic Zones (SEZ), trade facilitation and intertwining of domestic and external sector policies. Many of these issues have been addressed in the Foreign Trade Policy and in other reports of the Government.

(c) The Government has taken note of the difficulties faced by the exporters and taken following measures to mitigate the same:

- (i) Directorate General of foreign Trade (DGFT) has implemented electronic Bank Realisation Certificate (e-BRC) to capture foreign exchange realisation details directly from Bank thereby reducing the transaction cost
- (ii) Exporters can submit application and make payment of application fee through online system
- (iii) Online complaint registration module is in operation in the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) for redressal of Grievances
- (iv) 24x7-customs clearance *w.e.f* 1st September, 2012 at Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai Air Cargo Complexes. 24x7 customs clearances facilities are available at Chennai, JNPT, Kandla and Kolkata Seaports in respect of the following categories of imports and exports:
 - Bills of Entry where no examination and assessment is required and
 - Factory stuffed export containers and export consignment covered by Free Shipping Bills.

This facility was further extended to Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Kolkata, Cochin, Calicut, Coimbatore, Goa, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Nasik, Vishakhapatnam, Thiruvananthapuram Air Cargo complexes with effect from 1.6.2013.

Abolition of DDT and MAT on SEZs

3699. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has recommended abolition of Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT) and Minimum Alternative Tax (MAT) levied on Special Economic Zones to boost manufacturing and exports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether abolishing MAT and DDT on Special Economic Zones will send a positive signal to global investors; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) As per the original