

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

provisions under the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Act, 2005 and Rules, 2006, exemption from Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) in the case of SEZ Developers and Units as also the exemption from Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT) for SEZ Developers were granted.

The provisions of Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) have been made applicable to Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Developers and Units with effect from 1st April, 2012, and the exemption of Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT) in the case of SEZ Developers under the Income-tax Act for dividends declared, distributed or paid is not available after 1st June, 2011.

Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce) has recommended the restoration of original exemption from Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) and Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT) to SEZ developers and units.

Institutionalisation of Bullion Trade

3700. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether gems and jewellery exports declined by 11 per cent in 2013-14 and the World Gold Council (WGC) has cautioned Government that the gold jewellery manufacturing industry may move to China if it does not take measures to institutionalise bullion trade in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether China has proposed to set up a free trade zone for the gold industry to attract foreign investments in bullion trade and jewellers are already weighing the options; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the measures Government proposes to take to institutionalise bullion trade in India? .

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) Gem and jewellery exports have been growing steadily since 2002-03. However, some decline has been noticed in the year 2012-13 and 2013-14, which was due to the global economic slowdown. The details of gem and jewellery exports during the last five years are given below:-

Year	Value in USD Million	% Growth
2009-10	29,081.11	2.36
2010-11	40,508.72	39.30