

Setting up of Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor

1088. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has initiated any action on setting up of Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor along the lines of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and other issues as provided in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 and also as was assured by the then Prime Minister on the floor of the Rajya Sabha on 20th February, 2014 during the passage of the Bill; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Central Government has entrusted the feasibility study for Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC) to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) which has since submitted the draft Conceptual Development Plan (CDP) of VCIC.

Review of functioning of SEZs

1089. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to review the functioning and performance of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the review done so far in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the functioning of SEZs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) Sir, 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 SEZs. The Government has notified SEZ Rules (Amendment) 2013 *vide* GSR 540E dated 12.8.2013 to reduce land requirement criteria and other reform measure to boost SEZ policy framework.