

Trade Policy Forum to discuss trade issues with US

1094. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that in the joint statement issued during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to United States, there is a provision to form a Trade Policy Forum (TPF) to discuss trade and investment issues between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) India-US TPF is already in existence since the time it was first established in July, 2005. The India-US TPF is designed to enhance bilateral trade and investment relations between India and the United States.

(b) The 8th Ministerial Meeting of the TPF was recently held in New Delhi on 25th November, 2014. During the meeting a range of issues including Market Access for identified products, market access for pharmaceutical and traditional medicines pharmacopeia besides Totalisation Agreement, and US Immigration Reforms were discussed.

FDI in manufacturing of medical devices

1095. SHRI A. W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is actively considering a proposal to have a separate policy for allowing 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the manufacturing of medical devices through automatic route, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the sector remains under-penetrated at present in the domestic market contributing 7-8 per cent of the healthcare spending against pharma's 18 per cent spending and the industry has a potential to touch 50 billion dollars by 2025; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to develop the sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) A Task Force has been constituted in the Department of Pharmaceuticals with representative from all concerned Departments/Institutions and Industry Associations to examine the present status and share of domestic production and imports in different categories of medical devices and