

Region, Madhya Pradesh; (vi) Dadri-Noida-Ghaziabad Investment Region, Uttar Pradesh; (vii) Dighi Port Industrial Area, Maharashtra; and (viii) Jodhpur-Pali-Marwar Region in Rajasthan.

(d) and (e) Government of India has taken a number of initiatives to simplify regulatory procedures as well as measures to improve 'Ease of Doing Business' which include facilitation of global and domestic investors through "Investor Facilitation cell" in Invest India and opening up new sectors for FDI. New infrastructure has been planned to be created to bolster manufacturing activities under 'Make in India' programme. Delicensing a large number of defence components and dual use products; making application for industrial licence, Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum, Environment Clearance, registration with Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) and Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) online and extending validity of industrial licence and security clearance given by the Ministry of Home Affairs are a few examples of the measures taken to make it easier to do business in India.

Total ban on tobacco farming

1883. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has urged Government for the implementation of the total ban on tobacco farming and all forms of processed/ flavoured/scented chewing tobacco, whether going by the name or form of 'gutka', 'zarda' etc.;

(b) if so, Government's response and reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government is seriously considering to ban tobacco farming in the country;

(d) if so, whether Government is prepared for giving any alternative farming method to the tobacco farming people; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) There is no such proposal from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for total ban on tobacco farming. However, Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011 dated 1st August 2011, issued under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, *inter-alia* prohibit that use of tobacco and nicotine as ingredients in any food products. The said Regulation 2.3.4 lays down as under:

“Products not to contain any substance which may be injurious to health; Tobacco and nicotine shall not be used as ingredients in any food products.”

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Department of Commerce.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Enhancing growth of industrial output

1884. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the concrete measures taken by Government to enhance the growth of industrial output as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) during the last six months;

(b) what has been the outcome of these measures; and

(c) the additional measures Government proposes to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) Industrial growth measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) during the first six months (April-September) of 2014-15 has improved to 2.8% as compared to 0.5 % recorded during the corresponding period of the previous year.

The Government is continuously taking measures to boost growth of industrial production in the country. For ease of doing business, the Government is simplifying and rationalizing the processes and the procedures for boosting investor sentiment. Some of the recent initiatives towards this end include pruning the list of industries that can be considered as defence industries requiring industrial license, two extensions of two years each in the initial validity of three years of the industrial license permitted up to seven years, removal of stipulation of annual capacity in the industrial license, and deregulating the annual capacity for defence items for Industrial License. Further, the recent amendments in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy include allowing FDI in Defence up to 49%, FDI in Railway infrastructure up to 100% and easing sectoral norms of FDI for Construction. The Union Budget 2014-15 had also announced a number of administrative and fiscal measures to revive the industrial growth in the country, which include expediting implementation of the e Biz Mission mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan and setting up of