

Considering the good prospects for overall growth and development of leather industry in the country, there is good potential for the growth of leather industry in the State of West Bengal too.

(b) and (c) Mega Leather Cluster (MLC) sub-scheme under Indian Leather/Development Programme (ILDP) is a demand driven scheme. So far, there is no proposal to establish Mega Leather Cluster in West Bengal.

Concessions given to SEZs

2686. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any relaxations and concessions are given to Special Economic Zones (SEZs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that some of the SEZs are prone to black money laundering; and

(d) if so, the action/corrective measures Government proposes to take on the erring SEZs and put an end to such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) The fiscal concessions and duty benefits allowed to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are in built into the SEZs Act, 2005 and Rules thereunder. These exemptions are uniformly applicable to all SEZs and are in the nature of incentives for export and are consistent with the principles that guide export promotion initiatives of the Government in general. The performance of SEZs is regularly monitored by the Unit Approval Committees of SEZs headed by the Development Commissioner. There are adequate safeguards in-built into the SEZ Act, 2005 and Rules, 2006 framed thereunder to prevent misuse of the SEZ Scheme. Failure to meet the requirements of the scheme or any violation of its provisions attracts action under Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.

Steps taken to encourage manufacturing sector

2687. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to encourage the manufacturing sector; and