

Plant. However, there was a minor incident of gas inflammation during welding job in the gear box at Plate Mill. Three persons were treated for minor burns. No compensation was given, as the nature of injury was minor.

SEZs notified in Bihar

†*54. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) notified in Bihar;
- (b) the area allocated for each SEZ and the activities proposed in them; and
- (c) the status of each SEZ and the stand of the Central Government regarding SEZs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Sir, there are no Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Bihar.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005, a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) may be established either jointly or severally by the Central Government, State Governments or any person for manufacture of goods or rendering services or for both or as a Free Trade and Warehousing Zone. Proposals for setting up of SEZs are considered by the Board of Approval only after written consent of the concerned State Government.

Constitution of NDMA

*55. SHRI PAVAN KUMAR VARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) stands constituted at present;
- (b) if so, whether it was without any Chairman or Members at the apex level for any period of time in the last six months;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether the absence of a duly constituted and functioning NDMA was felt during the recent tragic and disastrous floods in Jammu and Kashmir?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per, section 3 (2) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, NDMA consists of the Prime Minister as *ex-officio* Chairperson and such number of other Members, not exceeding nine, as may be prescribed by the Central Government. There has always been at least one Member in NDMA, in addition to the Prime Minister as Chairperson.

(d) No, Sir.

Access for the least developed countries to Indian market under WTO

*56. SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has informed the World Trade Organisation (WTO) that it should ensure that the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) get access to its market without duties or quotas, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the response received so far; and

(c) how it would be beneficial to our people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Pursuant to the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration of December, 2005 for Duty Free Quota Free access to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), India announced its Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme for LDCs in the year 2008. The Scheme came into full operation in 2012 and provided duty free access on about 85% of India's total tariff lines and preferential access (Positive List) on about 9% of tariff lines. Only 6% tariff lines were under the Exclusion List. This scheme was accordingly notified to the WTO in 2011.

Further, to fully meet the obligations under the Hong Kong Ministerial Mandate, the Scheme has been expanded and with effect from 1.4.2014, the Scheme now provides duty free market access on about 96 % of India's tariff lines and 2.2% of the lines are enjoying preferential duties. Only 1.8% of the tariff lines have been retained in the Exclusion List, with no duty concessions.

(b) At present, 31 out of the 48 LDCs have become beneficiaries to the scheme. Out of this, 21 LDC beneficiaries are from Africa.

(c) The WTO provides a rule based system for global trade which ensures