

- (5) The application process for Industrial Licence and Industrial Entrepreneur's Memorandum has been made easy by simplifying the form and making the processes online 24x7.
- (6) The validity period of Industrial Licence and security clearance from Ministry of Home Affairs has been increased.
- (7) The process of registration with Employees' Provident Fund Organisation and Employees' State Insurance Corporation has been made on line and real-time.
- (8) The process of obtaining environment and forest clearances has been made online.
- (9) Partial commencement of production is being treated as commencement of production of all the items included in the licence.
- (10) A unified portal for Registration of Units for LIN, Reporting of Inspection, Submission of returns and Grievance Redressal has been launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- (11) The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has advised Ministries and State Governments to simplify and rationalize the regulatory environment through business process reengineering and use of information technology.

Cancellation of licences of SEZs

2246. 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 the licences of a number of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been cancelled;

(b) if so, the total number of licences approved so far, out of which how many are in operation and how many are cancelled, since when and owned by whom; and

(c) what are the reasons for cancelling the licences and what will happen to the land acquired for setting up SEZs in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) In addition to Seven Central Government Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and 11 State/Private Sector SEZs set-up prior to the enactment of the SEZs Act, 2005, approval has been accorded to 436 proposals for setting up of SEZs, out of which 347 SEZs have been notified as on date. Presently, a total of 199 SEZs are exporting.

As on 28th February, 2015, 37 SEZs have been de-notified. Reasons given by developers for seeking de-notification include economic meltdown, poor market response, non-availability of skilled labour force, lack of demand for space, changes in fiscal concessions regime for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) etc.

Delay in approval to micro hydropower units at Idukki, Kerala

2247. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala had submitted a proposal to Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) on 25th January, 2006 for funding the second phase of 110 KV micro hydropower units at Mankulam in Idukki district, which was approved and returned to DIPP by United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the project is not given approval despite repeated requests from the State Government since 2012, the latest being a letter from the Chief Minister of Kerala dated 31st October, 2014 to the Minister in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details there of and reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The UNIDO Regional Centre for Small Hydro Power in Energy Management Centre, Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram was sanctioned for three years from April, 2003 to December, 2005 and further extended till September, 2006, at a total cost of US\$ 100,000 by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) through UNIDO.

(c) and (d) In October, 2007, Government of Kerala submitted another proposal for second phase of the same project titled "UNIDO Regional Centre for Small Hydro Power at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala (Second Phase)". This proposal was considered by DIPP and given an initial in-principle approval on 29th December, 2007.

The project proposal got delayed due to internal approval process of UNIDO till December, 2011. However, despite repeated requests made by DIPP, the proposal submitted by UNIDO lacked necessary details like sites where the Ultra Low Head Technology stations (ULHTs) would be located, the total power proposed to be generated per site, and necessary budget details. Further, the project did not relate in any way to Industrialization or Manufacturing. Accordingly it was decided that the project did