

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

not merit approval for extension and upscaling of activities. In this regard, Minister of State (C&I) wrote to Mr. Oomen Chandy, Chief Minister, Kerala on 6th January, 2015 advising him to take up the matter with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India to explore option for further funding.

Assistance for establishing new industries in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh

2248. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

SHRI K. C. TYAGI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the industry-wise and work-wise details of quantum of assistance provided for establishing new industries in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Sir, Ministry of Commerce and Industry has not provided any assistance for establishment of new industries in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh during the last two years.

Biased import policy of some countries towards Indian exporters

2249. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the biased import policy of other countries towards Indian exporters;

(b) if so, the details of such countries;

(c) whether Government has approached the World Trade Organisation (WTO) or any other forum against these countries, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has taken any unilateral action against imports from these countries, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) Government monitors the measures/actions being taken by countries including the WTO member countries which Government considers as inconsistent with the existing agreement or otherwise, and take up the matter in the appropriate forum in case the measure impacts India's exports. India has taken up such issues either at the bilateral level or multilateral level (under WTO Committee meetings or the WTO Dispute Settlement System). In the recent past, India had taken up such matters with the importing countries and had been successful in such matters to a large extent. A few of them are: