

security purposes, India decided not to join the consensus in the WTO on next step for the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement till its concerns were addressed.

(c) Initially there was a general campaign of misinformation and criticism of India's stand. However, India stood firm and worked with other WTO members to find a way forward. Subsequently, a Decision was adopted by the WTO General Council (GC) in November, 2014 which makes it clear that a mechanism, under which WTO Members will not challenge the public stockholding programmes of developing country members for food security purposes, in relation to certain obligations under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, will remain in place in perpetuity until a permanent solution regarding this issue has been agreed and adopted. This strengthens the safeguard available for continuing the Minimum Support Price policy and will ensure that India's food security operations are not constrained due to WTO rules. The GC Decision also includes a firm commitment to engage in negotiations for a permanent solution through an intensified programme of work. India is working with the WTO members to ensure a permanent solution at the earliest.

Easing rules on sale of SEZ goods within the country

1069. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a panel/study commissioned by the Ministry to review the policy on Special Economic Zones (SEZs) has suggested easing rules on sale of SEZ goods within the country as these units are at a disadvantageous position due to falling global demand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) has suggested to charge the SEZ unit with the minimum FTA tariff that is applicable on a product as a possible way out; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) has conducted a Study to carry out a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Policy and other related aspects. It has made a number of recommendations which *inter-alia* include strengthening of Single Window Clearance by better coordination between Department of Commerce and State Governments, integration of SEZs with

domestic economy, improving the institutional and administrative framework for SEZs, aggressive marketing of SEZs, stability in SEZ policy, different incentives for different sectors in SEZs and allowing best Free Trade Agreement (FTA) rates for domestic clearance for SEZ manufacturing units.

SEZs in Haryana

1070. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the State of Haryana;

(b) the area-wise details and the status thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to remove the hurdles with regard to approvals and funding issues for accelerated development of SEZs in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) In the State of Haryana, a total of 29 Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been accorded formal approval out of which 25 have been notified. Presently, six SEZs are exporting. The details showing list of SEZs in Haryana are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) The Government, on the basis of inputs/suggestions received from stakeholders on the policy and operational framework of the SEZ Scheme, periodically reviews the policy and operational framework of SEZs and takes necessary measures so as to facilitate speedy and effective implementation of SEZs. Proposals for setting up of SEZs are considered by the Board of Approval only after written consent of the concerned State Government. SEZs being set up under the Act are primarily private investment driven.