

Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor Project

1882. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) is the nodal agency for implementation of Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) Project; and

(b) the current status of the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) Government of India entrusted the task of preparation of Comprehensive Regional Perspective Plan including Master Plan and Development Plan for selected industrial nodes along the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) to the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), as nodal agency of the CBIC project. Master Planning of three identified nodes in the region *i.e.* Krishnapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Tumkur (Karnataka) and Ponneri (Tamil Nadu) has been completed. JICA has submitted the Draft Master Planning Report to the Central Government. Copies of the Report have since been shared with the State Governments concerned and other stake holders. JICA has also listed 25 priority projects in the CBIC region, which are at different stages of implementation.

Procurement of basmati rice by Iran

1883. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iran agreed to procure Basmati from India from the current fiscal;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for blocking Basmati from India last year;

(c) whether Iran had procured Basmati from any other countries during last year in view of presence of pesticide residues; and

(d) the year-wise average quantity of Basmati rice exported to Iran in the last ten years and foreign exchange earned through this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) Due to excess rice stocks available in Iran, Iranian authorities temporarily suspended further imports of rice from rest of the world from October, 2014. This ban is not country specific. Iran may resume import of rice this year depending upon domestic production and demand.