

(b) and (c) The tenure of the previous Board expired on 28 February 2014. As per Rules, all statutory and administrative functions of the Board, until its reconstitution, are discharged by the Chairman within his delegated powers. Chairman of Spices Board currently has additional charge of the Chairman of the Rubber Board. Steps have been taken for reconstitution of the Board.

#### **Investment centres**

2582. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision had been taken some time back to build 50 new investment centres in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the decision has been rescinded/substituted by some other scheme and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) No, Sir; such decision has not taken by the Government.

(a) and (b) Do not arise.

#### **Steps to boost exports**

2583. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the trade deficit has become a structural feature and Government has not been able to offer any out-of-box solution to bridge the gap between the exports and imports;

(b) if so, the measures Government proposes to take to boost export performance and to narrow down imports;

(c) whether there is any proposal to revisit export promotion schemes to give more space to MSME sector; and

(d) the quantum of incense sticks exported during the last three years together with the details of countries to which incense sticks have been exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) India's merchandise Exports, Imports as well as Trade Deficit during the last three years have shown a mixed trend as evident from the table below: