

(d) The development of Industrial Corridors is to be undertaken in phased manner. The Government of India approved the financial and institutional structure and financial assistance for the development of industrial cities in DMIC in September 2011. The financial assistance will be in the form of grant of ₹ 17,500 crore over five years for the development of industrial cities @ ₹ 2500 crore per city on an average subject to a ceiling of ₹ 3000 crore per city. The Japanese Government has also announced financial support to an extent of US \$ 4.5 billion in the first phase of the DMIC project.

(e) The Industrial Corridors aim at attracting domestic and foreign direct investment in manufacturing and infrastructure, putting in place a holistic planning and development approach, while taking advantage of the inherent strengths and competitiveness of the States included in the Industrial Corridors; Providing “best in class” infrastructure including internal and external trunk infrastructure, effective and efficient transportation, reliable energy supplies, ICT (Information Communication and Technology) and efficient logistics; Development of Smart Industrial Cities of the future which can be benchmarked as the best in the world; Upgrading and developing the skills of the workforce and creating employment opportunities; and Promoting sustainable development and inclusive growth.

Grants-in-aid to Uttarakhand for tea-plantation

†176. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government will consider giving special grants-in-aid to the State Government of Uttarakhand for tea-plantation in place of crops which are being destroyed by wild animals in Uttarakhand;
- (b) if not, the details of any other alternative with the Central Government; and
- (c) if no, the reservations on the part of Central Government in providing resources for tea plantation with a view to ameliorate the deteriorating economic condition of the farmers of Uttarakhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) The XII Plan Scheme for Tea Development being implemented by the Government does not have provision for extending special grants-in-aid to State Governments for tea-plantation in place of crops destroyed by wild animals. However, the growers of Uttarakhand may avail themselves of assistance for approved activities under the “Tea Development and Promotion Scheme” which is applicable to all States of India including Uttarakhand.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Under the 'Plantation Development' component of the Scheme, the growers can get assistance for new planting, irrigation, field mechanization, etc. Under the component of 'Small Growers Development', incentive is provided to small growers, *inter-alia*, for new planting, irrigation facilities, field mechanization, formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs) and setting up of factories by SHGs.

Status of WTO subsidy cap issue

177. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is working on a solution to World Trade Organization (WTO) subsidy cap issue; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) The Doha Round of trade negotiations in the World Trade Organization (WTO) has a comprehensive agenda including the rules relating to trade-distorting agricultural support. India has been working to ensure the protection of its farmers while seeking disciplines relating to trade distorting agricultural support.

Together with other developing countries, India had proposed an amendment to the WTO rules relating to public stockholding for food security purposes in order to safeguard procurement and food stockholding operations in developing countries. At the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the WTO held in Bali in December 2013, a Ministerial Decision was taken on this issue. Subsequently, as a result of India's efforts, the General Council (GC) of the WTO adopted a Decision in November 2014 making it clear that 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 and the peace clause will remain in place in perpetuity until a permanent solution has been agreed and adopted. The GC Decision also includes a commitment to find a permanent solution by 31 December, 2015 on a best endeavour basis and a firm commitment to engage in negotiations for this purpose through an intensified programme of work. India is working with the WTO members to ensure a permanent solution at the earliest.

Introduction of e-Biz platform

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

- (a) whether the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has