

[5 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

(d) The matter has been taken up with the Saudi Arabian Authorities.

Shifting MPEDA to Vishakhapatnam

4. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to shift the MPEDA from Cochin to Vishakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the marine product exports originate from the East Coast; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to shift MPEDA to the East Coast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The East Coast contributed about 25.09% in volume and 51.04% in value of our total export of marine products during 2002-03.

(d) The office is well established and there are a large number of processing units closer to Cochin. Moreover, any shifting will entail large expenditure, which is avoidable.

New Trade Policy

5. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revamped the trade policy;

(b) if so, whether a twenty five Member Advisory Group had been constituted to advise on the export and import related issues;

(c) whether the new policy would focus on agriculture and employment generation;

(d) whether Government are also considering for promotion of FDI that promotes agriculture exports and creates additional jobs; and

(e) if so, by when the New Trade Policy is likely to be announced?