

Special Economic Zones for financial services

9. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously thinking of setting up of a Special Economic Zone for the financial services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed Economic Zone would be developed into an international financial services centre;

(d) whether presently computer software is the only service eligible for tax exemption; and

(e) whether Government are thinking of giving tax benefits to the Special Economic Zone for financial services?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) At present, apart from computer software services covered under Section 10A of the Income Tax Act, Offshore Banking Units located in the Special Economic Zones are eligible for income-tax exemption as provided in Section 80 LA of the Income Tax Act.

Funds for Export Marketing and Sales Promotion

10. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to pump in Rs. 450 crores in the mid-term for export marketing and sales promotion activities;

(b) whether the Indian exporters would get any assistance for establishing warehouses and showrooms in the Indian markets;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government are seriously thinking of phasing out popular Market Development Scheme in the light of the increased allocation; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?