THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The slowdown in core sector growth was due to slowdown in the growth of Coal, Steel, Cement and Electricity industries.

(b) In general, the negative growth in October, 2015 of Crude Oil and Natural Gas was *inter-alia*, due to ageing fields, water/sand ingress, environmental problems, etc. and that of Refinery Products was due to shut down of certain units. Further, the decline in production of Steel was mainly on account of on-going work related to modernization/upgradation/commissioning of new (brownfield) capacities, downfall in domestic steel consumption and rise in imported material.

(c) The Government is taking steps to raise growth in these industries which *inter-alia*, include measures relating to policy, procedures, improving infrastructure and ensuring availability of required inputs.

Export of beef

2722. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is legal to export beef;

(b) if so, the details of estimated quantity of beef exported and the revenue generated from it to Government annually; and

(c) if it is legal outside the country why the sale of beef cannot be legalized across the country for domestic users?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) As per the existing Government of India's Meat Export Policy the export of beef (meat of cows, oxen and calf) is prohibited and is not permitted for exports. However, as per the distribution of legislative powers between Union of India and States, under Article 246(3) of the Constitution, preservation of cattle is the matter on which the State legislatures have the exclusive powers to legislate.

Study on PICS

2723. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted a study on Pharmaceuticals Inspection Cooperation Scheme (PICS);