

Economic relief to commerce and industry sectors

648. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the industry and commerce sector are getting economic relief as exemption, rebate, concession, for the past few years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof since last two years;
- (c) the reasons behind the relief given to the industrial and commerce sector; and
- (d) the outcomes of the relief provided to the industry and commerce sector since last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Economic relief is being provided in the form of special tax rates, exemptions, rebates, deductions, deferrals, credits etc. Relief to industries from direct tax is provided through measures like accelerated depreciation, deduction /weighted deduction for expenditure on scientific research, on schemes for the social and economic uplift of the public, to charitable trusts and institutions, for undertakings engaged in development of infrastructure facilities, development of SEZs and Industrial parks, providing telecommunication services, generation, transmission and distribution of power, revival of power plant, production of mineral oil and natural gas, housing projects, operating a cold chain facility, business of handling, storage and transportation of food grains, processing, preservation and packaging of fruits and vegetables, hospitals in rural hospitals, collecting and processing of bio-degradable waste, employment of new workmen, offshore banking units etc. Relief is also provided for industrial undertakings located in Jammu & Kashmir, North Eastern States, Sikkim, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and other industrially backward districts. Excise and custom duty relief is provided to all major industrial sectors including crude oil, machinery, edible oils, diamond & gold, primary metals, chemical, plastics, textiles, fertilizers etc among others. Various export promotion schemes including the Duty Free Entitlement Credit Certificate, Target Plus, Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana, Focus Market/Product, other exemption or input tax neutralization provide relief to exporters.

(c) and (d) Economic relief are provided in accordance with certain policy priorities of the government and to achieve targeted outcomes. The objectives include *inter alia*

encouraging savings and capital investment in the economy, balanced regional development, promoting social equity, creation of infrastructure facilities, employment generation, rural development, industrial development, promoting skill development and entrepreneurship, research and development, cooperative sector, domestic manufacturing and provide a level playing field for Indian exports in the international markets. Relief is also provided in an area based approach to promote industry and commerce in identified backward areas.

Delay in BTIA between EU and India

649. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the European Union (EU) have been negotiating a Bilateral Broad Based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) since June, 2007;

(b) if so, the present status in this regard;

(c) the details of the issues on which both the sides differs resulting in delay in concluding the talks; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to successfully conclude the much delayed BTIA between the EU and India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) India and European Union are negotiating a Bilateral Broad Based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) covering various tracks. So far fifteen rounds of negotiations have been held. As is consistent with previous and established practice in ongoing negotiations, disclosure before finalisation of the Agreement may adversely affect India's position in the negotiations.

(d) Two stocktaking meetings have been held recently and both the sides have re-engaged in discussion to address the key outstanding issues.

Bilateral trade relations

650. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bilateral relations of Indo-China, Indo-French, Indo-Japan in the field of trade and industries;