

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;