

on Export Competition, which covers agricultural export subsidies, among other issues. Other Ministerial Decisions on public stockholding for food security purposes, the SSM and on Cotton reaffirm a commitment to continue work on these issues.

Approval to big projects

652. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and details of big projects/proposals approved by the Ministry and started since last two years;
- (b) the details of employment generated during the last two years in various parts of the country; and
- (c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for generating more employment opportunities to the youth in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) 133 licences for manufacturing various items were issued during the last two years under defence and chemical sectors. The employment expected to be generated in these projects is 35,169 mandays.

(c) The Government of India has undertaken a number of initiatives to improve Ease of Doing Business to promote business activity. An Action Plan has been prepared across sectors under 'Make in India' initiative to promote these sectors. Further, a startup Action Plan has been released by the Government to create a conducive environment for startups in India. These efforts will promote employment generation in the country.

Import of healthcare related devices

653. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India imports over 75 per cent of its healthcare related device requirements, especially in cardiovascular surgery;
- (b) if so, the details of reasons for this dependency on import of health related devices especially those of bioprosthetic value;
- (c) the steps taken to reduce country's dependency on imports in this regard; and

(d) whether India's first Special Economic Zone (SEZ) for research in basic medical sciences is yet to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Indian medical device industry is import dependent. The reasons for dependency on import of health related devices lie in the prevailing differential in the state of development of this industry between developed and developing countries. To reduce the country's dependence on imports, a task force under Department of Pharmaceuticals with participation of stakeholders from various Government departments and industry has come out with recommendations on the medical devices sector in India. The draft Drugs and Cosmetic Amendment Bill, 2015 is pending.

(d) Of the 15 notified Pharmaceuticals/Bio-Technology SEZs, 11 are operational.

Adoption of A.P. retail policy at national level

654. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that Government of Andhra Pradesh has recently announced the country's first ever retail policy;

(b) if so, the salient features of the policy;

(c) whether the Ministry is considering of adopting the same at the national level; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) No formal communication has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in this regard.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government as retail trade is a state subject.

Protecting small and medium retailers from e-commerce

655. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any policy to protect the small retailers and small, medium scale manufacturers from the onslaught of 'e-commerce'; and