

(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