

- (b) if so, whether Government is considering to take any step to stop it; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Presently, there is no intelligence input/evidence to indicate that terrorists are making efforts to set up terrorist training camps in the hinterland of the country. However, during investigation of certain earlier bomb blast cases, it was noticed that physical/IEDs related training was imparted by leaders of some of the organizations to their cadres at various places in the country.

In order to counter terror activities, there exists close and effective coordination between intelligence and security agencies at the Centre and the State levels. The Multi Agency Centre (MAC) has been strengthened and re-organized to enable it to function on 24x7 basis for real time collation, analysing and sharing of intelligence with other intelligence agencies and States, which ensures seamless flow of information between the State and the Central agencies. This has resulted in busting of many terror modules in the country.

Settlement of solar power trade dispute with US

1136. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the US and India held talks to settle a long running solar power trade dispute, delaying the announcement of a ruling by the WTO;
- (b) whether the US initiated this dispute for the purpose of advancing the rapid development of clean, affordable energy in India and around the world;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the WTO has twice delayed the public announcement of a ruling in the case and WTO's Dispute Settlement Panel had confidentially notified the US that it would rule against India in the case; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Talks were held between India and US to arrive at an amicable solution to the WTO dispute ruling against the Domestic Content Requirement (DCR) of India's Solar Energy Program.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The US initiation of the dispute was primarily intended to challenge India's DCR for promotion of indigenous manufacturing capacity of solar energy.

(d) and (e) The WTO Panel finding and recommendation was initially scheduled to be circulated at the end of December 2015. Using the provisions of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding, the US complainant *i.e.* the US notified the WTO to delay circulation of the report stating that both parties were discussing the matter bilaterally for arriving at a mutually acceptable solution.

Approval of SEZs in Puducherry

1137. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that approval for two Special Economic Zones (SEZs) were granted under the SEZ Act, 2005, in the Union Territory of Puducherry;

(b) if so, the details of districts where the above SEZs are set up;

(c) the present status of each of the above SEZs; and

(d) the SEZ-wise total number of people employed and exports made in each of the SEZs since their inceptions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Approval for setting up of two SEZs in Union Territory of Puducherry were granted. Details of the two SEZs are as below:

(i) Formal Letter of Approval (LoA) dated 21.08.2006 was granted to M/s Pondichery Special Economic Zone Company Ltd. for development, operation and maintainance of the Multi Product SEZ at Sedarpet and Karasur Villages, Villianur Taluk, Puducherry District, Puducherry. The three-year validity of Formal LoA lapsed on 21.08.2009 and further extension of LoA and Notification of the SEZ were denied to the developer due to certain irregularities found. The decision of non-extension of Formal LoA was challenged before the Court of Law, where the matter is *sub-judice*.

(ii) In principle Letter of Approval dated 27.02.2009 was granted to M/s Karaikal Port Pvt. Ltd. for setting up of a Port based SEZ at Vanjore Village, Thirupattinum Commune, Karaikal District, Puducherry. In principle LoA lapsed on 27.02.2013 and no further extension of LoA was sought by the developer.