

**Permission to commercial surrogacy**

1154. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has permitted commercial surrogacy business in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) if not, the reasons for issue of the Notification dated 2nd December, 2013 permitting import of human embryo; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to reconsider the 2nd December, 2013 Notification and take a comprehensive view of legal and citizenship issues linked with the subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) Government of India does not support commercial surrogacy, in order to protect the interests of surrogate mothers and children. The Department of Health Research has issued a circular in this regard on 4.11.2015 and the circular is hosted on its official website.

(c) and (d) The classification and import policy of human embryo was not available prior to December, 2013. Based on the recommendation of an Inter-Ministerial Expert Committee under the aegis of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)/ Department of Health Research and supported by the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC), Department of Revenue, human embryo was classified and its import policy defined as freely importable, subject to 'No Objection Certificate' from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), *vide* Notification No. 52 dated 2.12.2013. Subsequently, Government reviewed the position and prohibited its import *vide* No. 25 dated 26.10.2015 except for research purposes based on the guidelines of the Department of Health Research.

**Action to narrow down trade deficit**

1155. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the updated details of the action taken by Government to narrow down trade deficit;

(b) as on date, the action taken by Government to increase contribution of manufacturing sector in overall GDP rate; and