

On the other hand, GATS/WTO deals with temporary entry and specifically excludes residency or employment on a permanent basis from its purview.

(c) UK Home Office Impact Assessment conducted in 2012 estimated that around 16% of Tier 2 migrants would no longer qualify for permanent settlement due to the salary threshold. But there is no specific official data available on the impact of these visa changes on Indian migrants in particular.

(d) The Government of India has taken up the matter bilaterally with the UK government at various levels and expressed concern over the changes in the UK visa rules.

Oil-for-drugs proposal with Venezuela

1834. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has put-forth oil-for-drugs proposal before Venezuela as it is struggling to pay money to our pharma companies;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) whether Venezuela is willing to accept this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The Government of India has put-forth an 'Oil for Export Mechanism' between Government of Venezuela and Government of India to settle pending payments of Pharma companies.

(b) The proposal seeks to work out a mechanism to offset payments which are to be made to oil companies of Venezuela against due payments of Indian entities.

(c) There has been no response from Venezuelan side.

Reconstitution of Coffee Board

1835. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reconstituted the Coffee Board and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is in violation of Rule 8 of the Coffee Rules, 1955 in reconstituting the Board before the completion of the previous term for members, and if so, the details thereof; and

- (c) the corrective measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) The functioning of the Coffee Board was reviewed by the Union Commerce and Industries Minister and in the light of the views expressed during the consultations it was felt that the functioning of the Coffee Board needs to be improved with regard to the key issues affecting the interests of coffee industry. Accordingly, the Coffee Board was re-constituted *vide* Gazette notification no. S.0.3413(E) dated 15.12.2015 for a period of three years in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 4(2) of the Coffee Act, 1942 read with rule 3 and rule 4(1) of the Coffee Rules, 1955. There is no violation of Rule 8 of the Coffee Rules, 1955 in reconstitution of the Coffee Board.

Startups that applied for recognition

1836. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of startups that have applied for recognition so far under the 'Startup India' programme; and
- (b) the number of startups recognized by Government so far and the funds disbursed thereon, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) 793 startups have applied for recognition so far under the 'Startup India' programme.

(b) 223 startups have been recognized by the Government so far. A 'Fund of Funds' (FFS) of INR 10,000 crores for Startups has been established which is being managed by SIDBI. The fund will invest in SEBI registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) which, in turn, will invest in Startups. Till date, SIDBI has sanctioned an amount of ₹168 crore towards the corpus of 6 AIFs under FFS. These AIFs shall invest in startups across sectors and States. At present no such information, State-wise, is available.

Dumping of solar panels and modules

1837. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that US, China and other countries are dumping solar panels and solar modules into the country and thereby impacting the domestic manufacturers;