

plant life or health; human health or safety. Similarly, WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures empowers member countries to mandate standards on goods with the objective of protecting human, animal or plant life or health.

Various ministries and agencies in Government of India like Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Ministry of Steel, Department of Electronics & Information Technology, etc. are pursuing these objectives and have mandated standards in the recent past. Any standard mandated by the national authority is equally applicable to domestically manufactured products as well as imported products.

Also, the Department of Commerce has been organizing National Standards Conclaves to sensitize stakeholders/ministries to meet the objectives of the standards like protection of human health or safety, animal or plant life or health, the prevention of deceptive practices, national security requirements or the environment with a view to protect the interests of consumers. The central government is also pursuing the agenda with the state governments and last year, five regional standards conclaves were organized to generate awareness across the country.

#### **Closing of industrial clusters in Punjab**

291. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's biggest industrial clusters in Punjab are shutting down their industrial units; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry does not collect information regarding shutting down or closure of industrial units in the country. This information is also not available with respect to closure of industrial units in Punjab.

(b) Doesn't arise.

#### **Decline in IEM applications**

292. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount of total number of Industrial Entrepreneurship Memorandum (IEM) applications have registered a steep decline since 2013; and

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