

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

(b) if so, the comparative statement of the last three years with regard to the amount contained in IEMs for each year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The total number of IEM application decreased from 2365 in the year 2013 to 1801 in the year 2014. However, the number of IEM applications filed in the year 2015 increased to 1909.

(b) A Statement indicating number of IEMs filed and investment reported in the last three years is given in the Statement.

Statement

Number of IEMs Filed and Investment Reported during the last three years

Year	No. of IEMs Filled	Investment Reported (Investment in ₹ crore)
2013	2365	529828
2014	1801	404339
2015	1909	307357

Export of fish by MPEDA

293. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of India's potential of export of a number of excellent varieties of fish including seabass, tilappa and mud crab, which are delicious and have huge acceptance in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the reasons for which Marine Product Export Development Authority (MPEDA) is more concerned for export of shrimps only;

(c) the details of various varieties of fish exported by MPEDA during the last three years; and

(d) the fresh steps taken by Government for export of all varieties of fish and the sea products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Shrimp is more preferred commodity in all the international markets and fetches a better margin compared to other fin fish or shell fish varieties. The priority given to