

This step has been taken as part of 'Ease of Doing Business' and reduction of Transaction Cost of exporters. Accordingly, revenue foregone under the scheme has been revised from ₹ 21000 crore per annum to ₹ 22,000 crore per annum.

- (iii) The Government is implementing the Niryat Bandhu Scheme with an objective to reach out to the new and potential exporters including exporters from Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and mentor them through orientation programmes, counselling sessions, individual facilitation, etc., on various aspects of foreign trade for being able to get into international trade and boost exports from India.
- (iv) By way of trade facilitation and enhancing the ease of doing business, Government reduced the number of mandatory documents required for exports and imports to three each, which is comparable with international benchmarks. The trade community can file applications online for various trade related schemes. Online payment of application fees through Credit/Debit Cards and electronic funds transfer from 53 Banks has been put in place.
- (v) Further, the Government continues to provide the facility of access to duty free raw materials and capital goods for exports through schemes like Advance Authorisation, Duty Free Import Authorization (DFIA), Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) and drawback/refund of duties.

Growth/decline rate in IIP

1025. SHRI K. T. S. TULSI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the overall growth/decline rate in the production Index of Industrial Production (IIP) of the eight core industries in relation to fiscal years 2014-15 and 2015-16?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is a measure of industrial production which is released by Central Statistics Office (CSO) at the base of year 2004-05 and it provides index/growth rates in sectors of Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity. While, the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) measures performance of eight core industries, which includes Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Petroleum Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity. The ICI is released by Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA) at the base of year 2004-05. The overall growth rate of ICI was 4.5% during 2014-15 and 2.7% during 2015-16.