

The Hub is set up to provide professional support to SC/ST entrepreneurs to fulfill obligations under the Central Government Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises Order 2012, adopt applicable business practices and leverage the Stand up India initiatives. The total project cost of the National Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribes Hub is proposed to be ₹ 490 crore for the period 2016-17 to 2019-20.

The functions of Hub include collection, collation and dissemination of information regarding SC/ST enterprises and entrepreneurs, capacity building among existing and prospective SC/ST entrepreneurs through skill training and EDPs, vendor development involving CPSEs, NSIC, MSME-DIs and industry associations including Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI), promoting participation of SC/ST entrepreneurs in exhibitions and organizing special exhibitions for this purpose, facilitating SC/ST entrepreneurs participating in public procurement and monitoring the progress, etc.

Further, in order to provide an impetus to Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, the Government in the Union Budget 2017-18, has proposed to reduce the Income Tax rate for smaller companies with an annual turnover upto ₹ 50 crore from the present 30% to 25%. As per data of Assessment Year 2015-16, there are 6.94 lakh companies filing returns of which 6.67 lakh companies fall in this category and, therefore, percentage-wise 96% of companies will get this benefit of lower taxation. This will make the MSME sector more competitive as compared to large companies.

Anti-dumping duty on import of sugar

†662. MAHANT SHAMBHUPRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to impose anti-dumping duty on import of sugar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) conducts anti-dumping investigations on the basis of a duly substantiated petition filed by the Domestic Industry (DI) alleging dumping of goods into the country causing injury to the DI. The basic intent of the anti-dumping measures is to eliminate injury caused to the DI by the unfair trade practices of dumping from the other countries and to create a level playing field for

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the DI. No petition for the imposition of anti-dumping duty on import of sugar has been received in this Directorate from the domestic industry.

(b) Does not arise.

Task force on innovation

663. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to set up a Task Force on Innovation in a bid to enhance the innovation ecosystem and improve the country's ranking in the Global Innovation Index (GII);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of members and the terms of reference of the Task Force on Innovation are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) A comparative analysis on Global Innovation Index (GII) 2016 and GII 2015 has been carried out to identify the indices in which India's rank has declined or not changed or where data is not available. The information has also been circulated to all the concerned departments to update data and take further steps to improve ranking.

Statement

Details of members and the terms of reference of task force

The composition of the Task Force on Innovation is as follows:

1. Mr. Naushad Forbes, Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall Group; President, CII.
2. Dr. Anil Wali, MD, Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer, IIT, Delhi.
3. Mr. Gopichand Katragadda, Group Chief Technology Officer, TATA Sons.
4. Mr. Kris Gopalkrishnan, former Vice Chairman, Infosys, Chairman, Axilor Ventures and Chairman, CII Council on Startups.
5. Dr. Nikolai Dobberstein, Partner, A.T. Kearney Limited.
6. Mr. Rajeev Srinivasan, Adjunct Faculty, Innovation, IIM, Bangalore and Chief Consultant, Maker Village, IIITM-K, Trivandrum.