

- (a) whether it is a fact that Apple has decided to start manufacturing iPhones from Bengaluru this year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) what concessions Apple has sought and what concessions the Central Government has agreed to provide;
- (d) what would be the estimated creation of direct and indirect employment opportunities in Karnataka; and
- (e) how much investment is expected from Apple in the coming three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) Details of private business decision are not maintained by the Central Government. However, Apple, in their communications, indicated their plan for selective introduction of manufacturing lines in Spring 2017.

(c) M/s Apple India Private Limited (AIPL) sought concessions including duty exemption on manufacturing and repair units, components, capital equipment (including parts) and consumables for smartphone manufacturing and service/ repair for a period of 15 years. No decision has been taken by the Government in this regard.

(d) and (e) No estimation/ assessment of future employments as well as investment inflows is possible, as FDI is largely a matter of private business decisions.

Flooding of Chinese goods

†4497. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian markets are flooded with goods made in China;
- (b) if so, the list of items for which import from China has been allowed;
- (c) the steps taken to prevent the import of those Chinese items for which permission has not been granted by Government, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of action taken by Government against those traders indulging in trade of the banned Chinese items along with their number, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) Goods are imported when these are

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

either not available in the domestic market or because of price and quality considerations. Further, global trade is driven by differentiated nature of consumer preferences. India has progressively removed most Quantitative Restrictions (QR) on imports since 1991, except those necessitated mainly on grounds of health, security, public morale and environment. However, adequate provisions exist to protect the Indian consumers and producers as imported goods are subject to domestic laws, rules, orders, regulations, technical specifications, environmental and safety norms. Trade defense measures like anti-dumping duty and countervailing duty are also available to industries to seek remedies under the prescribed provisions. The Government of India has taken various measures for checking sub-standard imports, which *inter-alia* includes the following:

- (i) Government has imposed prohibition on import of milk and milk products (including chocolate and chocolate products and candies/confectionary/ food preparations with milk or milk solids as an ingredient) from China since 01/12/2008, which has been extended from time to time and these products are currently prohibited till 23.6.2017. This is the only China specific measure.
- (ii) Government has imposed prohibition on the import of mobile handsets (mobile phone) without International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) No. or with all zeroes IMEI and import of CDMA mobile phones without Electronic Serial Numbers (ESN), Mobile Equipment Identifier (MEID) or all zeroes ESN/MELD.

(c) and (d) Field formations of Customs have been sensitized to prevent any attempted illegal imports. During the year 2016-17, 24 cases have been booked against 27 companies for indulging in illegal trade of banned Chinese items and action has been taken against these companies under Customs Act and other prevalent laws.

Misuse of SEZ lands

4498. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that misuse of SEZ lands is rampant in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any estimation has been made up to what extent the SEZs are being misused, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken by Government to recover the lands allocated for SEZs and not being used for the purpose, the details thereof; and