

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

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard to curtail the misuse of SEZ lands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) Land is a State subject. The Board of Approval approves a proposal for establishment of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) subject to the terms and conditions prescribed in the SEZ Act and Rules. The approval is granted only after the concerned State Government recommends the setting up of the SEZ. The implementation of SEZ projects by developers is monitored by the Development Commissioners as per SEZ Act and Rules on a regular basis. No rampant misuse of SEZ lands has been reported.

Procurement of goods through Government-e-Market (GeM)

4499. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made it mandatory for the Ministries and Departments to make procurement of goods only through Government-e-Market (GeM);
- (b) if so, the details of the platform and how it is a transparent mechanism;
- (c) whether GeM is mandatory for State Governments also; and
- (d) whether the decision of procurement through GeM would be advantageous to the manufacturing units of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir. As per Rule 149 of the GFR-2017, procurement of Goods and Services by Ministries/Departments of Central Government has been made mandatory for Goods or Services available on GeM.

(b) GeM is an online end to end procurement portal. All the activities from registration of Buyers and Sellers to purchase and even payment to the Sellers through Public Financial Management Service are completely online. Three methods of procurement are followed as per Rule 149 of GFR-2017. The prices listed by any seller are visible to all the Registered Buyers and Sellers. Moreover, to promote transparency, the Bidding and Reverse Auction notices are sent to all the Sellers who are available for that product on GeM through email/SMS and notice on the homepage of GeM. All the contracts are available in public domain. The complete Audit trail is available for viewing at any time.

(c) GeM is not mandatory for State Governments. It is left to their discretion to