

(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

procure through GeM. However, some State Government organizations are making procurement through GeM viz. Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Telangana, Odisha, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tripura, Haryana and Uttarakhand.

(d) GeM, being a technology driven platform, has better functionality and capability to centrally drive and monitor compliance of various Government policies towards promotion of domestic manufacturers, in public procurement.

Decline in cement production

4500. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether cement production in the country has declined during 2016-17 because of weak demand as per data available till January, 2017 against the trend for the last 15 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and likely reasons for this phenomenon; and

(c) whether the demand for cement is likely to increase resulting in higher production in the next financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) No Sir, it has not declined.

(b) Doesn't arise.

(c) Yes Sir. Demand of cement is expected to increase in the next financial year on account of various flagship programmes of Government of India such as 'Housing for all by 2022', 'Smart Cities Mission', 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana', 'Freight and Industrial Corridors', 'National Highways Expansion including construction of cement concrete roads', etc.

Review of policy for setting up new industries

4501. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to review the policy regarding setting up new industries in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the responsibility of developing industries rests with the State Governments;