

bank maintained by it, which will enable the Ministry to streamline and monitor the schemes and pass on the benefits directly to MSMEs;

- (iv) Reserve Bank of India based on Ministry of MSME's Framework for Revival and Rehabilitation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has brought out a revised framework in March 2016 in order to make it compatible with existing regulatory guidelines.
- (v) For providing quick and competitive finance to MSMEs, NSIC is setting up 'Finance Facilitation Centres (FFCs)' throughout the country.
- (vi) The RBI has made it desirable for the commercial banks to:
 - Review their existing lending policies to the MSE sector and tune their policies by incorporating therein the provisions for sanctioning of standby credit facility in case of term loans
 - Undertake mid-term review of regular working capital limits
 - Provide additional working capital limit to their MSE borrowers
 - Provide an additional 60 days for recognition of a loan account as substandard in specific cases
- (vii) The Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed to reduce the income tax for smaller companies with annual turnover upto ₹ 50 crore to 25%; further, for small and medium taxpayers whose turnover is upto ₹ 2 crore, Union Budget 2017-18 proposes to reduce the percentage of their turnover counted as presumptive income from 8% to 6% in respect of turnover which is received by non-cash means.

Internal security of the country

†*225. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the internal security of the country has become stronger in the last two and a half years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that violence has significantly reduced in the Naxal and extremist-affected States in the last two and a half years; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The overall internal

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

security situation in the country is under control due to the efforts of the Central and State Governments.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There has been improvement in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) scenario in the country. Comparison of violence data of 2013 with 2016 reflects that there has been an overall 07% reduction in violent incidents (1136 to 1048) and 30% reduction (397 to 278) in LWE related deaths. Over the same period there has been a 43% reduction (115 to 65) in casualties to Security Forces personnel and 122% increase (100 to 122) in elimination of armed Maoists cadres.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Discussion on services trade with WTO chief

2237. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the services trade was on top of India's agenda during World Trade Organisations chief's visit to the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government held any discussion with the chief of WTO on the above issue; and

(d) if so, the deliberations made in the said meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) During the visit of Mr. Roberto Azevêdo, Director General, World Trade Organization to India in February 2017, a meeting was held in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, during which Services Trade and other issues of India's interest were discussed. India has recently tabled a proposal in the WTO for an Agreement on Trade Facilitation in Services (TFS). A team of capital based officers have also visited Geneva for discussion on the issues of India's interest, including the TFS.

Demand of interest subsidy by exporters

2238. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exporters have demanded an Export Development Fund to help marketing of the products of small exporters in global markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard;