

and re-export purposes. To protect the domestic farmers, Government imposes import duty from time to time. To regulate the import of Natural Rubber, Government has been taken various steps such as reduction in export obligation period, enhancement of basic import duty, port restriction etc.

Allocation of funds for VOC Port at Tuticorin

2251. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allocated any fund for development of VO Chidambaranar (VOC) Port at Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu under the Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and other Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years; and

(c) if no such funds have been allotted, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) No, Sir. No fund have been allocated for development of VO Chidambaranar (VOC) Port at Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu under Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and other Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme as no such proposal has been sanctioned.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Redevelopment of Pragati Maidan

2252. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved a proposal to redevelop Pragati Maidan by setting up a world class integrated exhibition-cum-convention centre at a total cost of ₹ 2254 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ITPO will utilize ₹ 1200 crores out of its free reserves towards funding of the project;

(d) whether Government has fixed any time-frame to complete the proposed redevelopment; and