

India has been working with WTO members especially the developing countries to ensure that its interests in the WTO negotiations are protected. Implementation of Bali and Nairobi Ministerial Decisions, especially on public stockholding for food security purposes is a priority for India in the negotiations and India is working for a permanent solution in this area.

Development of Villupuram under ECEC as a node

329. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending with Government to develop Villupuram in Tamil Nadu as a node under East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC) linking Kolkata in the East through Chennai to Tuticorin in South Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if no such proposal is pending, whether Government will come forward hereafter to develop Villupuram as an important node considering its strategic location?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) No such proposal is pending with Government of India.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

(c) National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT) has been formed to appraise such proposals.

India's pharma sector on priority watch list of US

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

(a) whether American pharma sector has asked US Trade Representative to continue to keep India on its Priority Watch List which includes countries that are alleged violators of US patents laws claiming that the environment on the ground remains challenging in India;

(b) whether among the key issues of concern for US pharma sector in India are unpredictable IP environment, high tariffs and taxes on medicines, regulatory data protection failure, discriminatory and non-transparent market access policies and unpredictable environment for clinical research; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard with US?