

(b) if not, the view of Government to accord priority to aforesaid groups in future?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is a major credit-linked subsidy programme implemented by this Ministry. PMEGP aims at generating self-employment opportunities through establishment of micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector by helping traditional artisans and unemployed youth.

The scheme is applicable for any individual, above 18 years of age, Self Help Group, Institutions registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860, production Co-operative Societies and Charitable Trusts.

Farming activities do not come under the scheme. But the farmers' producers association can avail the benefit of PMEGP scheme for value addition/manufacturing of products out of farm produce.

No priority is given to any group or category of individual except the persons who have already obtained skill development/EDP training from the training institutes run by Center and State Governments.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Steady drop in growth rate of GVA

1121. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a steady drop in the growth rate of overall share of Gross Value Added (GVA) in manufacturing sector during the year 2016-17;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to provide more policy or administrative support to manufacturing sector under the 'Make in India' vision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) As per CSO, the

share of Gross Value Addition (GVA) manufacturing at current prices (2011-12) stood at 16.4 per cent, 16.6 per cent and 16.5 per cent in the years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 respectively.

(c) 'Make in India' is an initiative aimed at creating a conducive environment for investment, development of modern and efficient infrastructure, opening up new sectors for foreign investments and forging a partnership between government and industry through a positive mindset. Further, the Government is continuously taking steps to provide a push to manufacturing in India, through initiatives like 'Startup India' initiative and 'Ease of Doing Business' along with 'Make in India'. Steps taken to improve ease of doing business include simplification and rationalisation of existing rules and introduction of information technology, setting up of an Investor Facilitation Cell, launch of e-biz Portal and liberalising policy for industrial licensing. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy and procedures have been simplified and liberalised progressively.

Investment agreements with foreign countries

1122. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to enter into agreements with foreign countries especially with Russia, USA, Germany and France and for mutual investments particularly, in the area of infrastructure; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and how these investment agreements are beneficial to the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) The existing Indian Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) were largely negotiated on the basis of Model BIT text adopted in 1993, and as amended in 2003. The 1993 Model BIT text contained provisions which were susceptible to broad and ambiguous interpretations by arbitral tribunals. Further, significant changes have occurred globally regarding BITs, in general, and investor-state dispute resolution mechanism, in particular. Accordingly, India started the process for review and revision of the earlier Model BIT, and came out with a revised Model BIT version, in December, 2015. Discussion