

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many countries are looking at India for investment opportunities after simplification of Foreign Direct Investment norms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No, Sir; there is no such proposal for setting up of war room in this department. However, this department is providing facilitation to investors through Invest India, a national level investment promotion agency.

(c) and (d) Government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy for attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), wherein most of the sectors are open to FDI under the automatic route. India has been witnessing unprecedented growth in total FDI in last few years due to liberalization of FDI policy coupled with improvement in ease of doing business climate. Total FDI inflow has increased to USD 61.96 billion in 2017-18 compared to USD 36.05 billion in 2013-14.

Impact of non-settlement of GST refunds on exports

46. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exporters were not able to execute the orders for exports for want of settlement of GST refunds;

(b) whether Government has received any representation from the export organisations in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Government has received representations from exporters/export organizations that they had difficulty in fulfilling export orders due to delay in settlement of Goods and Services Tax (GST) refunds.

(c) Government has taken many measures to expedite the refund of GST to exporters which *inter-alia* include:

(i) Issuance of Circular No.42/2017-Customs dated 7.11.2017 regarding certain common errors hindering disbursement of Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) refund and solutions thereof;

- (ii) Permitting manual intervention for corrections in figures by Customs officers through Amendment of Rule 96 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017 *vide* Notification No.3/2018-Central Tax dated 23.1.2018. Moving a step ahead for the ease of exporters, in case of refund of IGST where there is a mis-match of invoice details as filed in the Shipping Bill and GST Returns cases, an alternate mechanism with officer's interface has been developed and circulated *vide* Circular No.5/2018-Customs dated 23.2.2018.
- (iii) Circular No.06/2018-Cus dated 16.3.2018 has been issued by Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) providing solutions to Export General Manifest(EGM) related errors; Circular No.08/2018-Cus dated 23.3.2018 has been issued for granting one time exception for refund of IGST through an officer interface after due verification of payment of IGST based on information contained in the GST returns, in cases where status of IGST payment was declared as "NA" instead of "P" in shipping bill; and Circular No. 12/2018-Cus dated 29.5.2018 has been issued in respect of pending IGST refund claims where records have not been transmitted from Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) to Customs and a mechanism was provided both for cases where there was short payment and where there was no such short payment.
- (iv) In order to ensure smooth operation of the prescribed procedure and clearing the backlog of refund of IGST paid on export of goods, CBIC has directed Custom Houses to open a dedicated cell and e-mail address for the purpose of facilitating the pending IGST refund cases and Custom Houses have been directed to give wide publicity to this step.
- (v) Over a period of time various pro-active measures have been taken in consultation with GSTN, IT wing of customs and field formations, as a result of which most of the errors have been rectified and IGST refunds have been sanctioned. Exporter awareness campaigns using both print media and social media were carried out so as to benefit the maximum exporters. Further, to encourage the exporters and sort out the problems being faced by the exporters, two 'Special Drive Refund Fortnight' from 15.3.2018 to 29.3.2018 and from 31.5.2018 to 16.6.2018 were organized.

As a result, most of the claims filed till 30.04.2018 have been sanctioned. IGST refunds amounting to ₹ 21,142 crore and RFD-01A refunds totalling ₹ 16,920 crore has been sanctioned by CBIC and State Governments as on 16.06.2018.