

However, FDI is largely a matter of private business decisions, and therefore, Government has no details regarding probable proposals of foreign companies. It is understood that Wistron (a Taiwanese contract manufacturer) has set up a manufacturing facility in Bengaluru to manufacture iPhones.

**Incentives to states for promoting exports**

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

(a) whether Government is considering to give incentives to States for promoting exports and push the country's industrial growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for growth of exports and becoming less dependent on imports, particularly in electronics, defence sector, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) The Government has recently announced the Mid Term Review of the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 on 05.12.2017 under which measures to boost exports for all notified products under the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) were announced. This Scheme was introduced in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 on April 1, 2015. As on date, 7950 Tariff Lines at 8 digit level are eligible for rewards under MEIS at rates of currently at 2%, 3%, 4%, 5% and 7% of realized FOB value. The scheme does not target exports from any specific state from India and all notified products are granted incentive. For the electronics sector, at the time of review of Mid Term review of FTP, an annual additional incentive of ₹ 233.3 Cr was provided for 74 tariff lines at 8 digit level.

Further, in order to promote India's exports and minimize the trade deficit, the Government announced a major relief package for exporters in October 2017 by extending the Advance Authorization (AA)/Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG)/100% EOU schemes to sourcing inputs etc. from abroad as well as domestic suppliers. During the mid-term review of Foreign Trade Policy, export incentives under Merchandise Exports from India (MEIS) have been increased by 2% for labour intensive and MSME sectors leading to additional annual incentive of ₹ 4,567 crore. This was in addition to already announced increase in MEIS incentives from 2%

to 4% for Ready-made Garments and Made Ups in the labour intensive Textiles Sector with an additional annual incentive of ₹ 2,743 crore. Further, incentives under Services Exports from India Scheme (SEIS) have also been increased by 2% leading to additional annual incentive of ₹ 1,140 crore.

The Government has undertaken Foreign Direct Investment policy reforms in 21 sectors covering 87 areas. In addition to the opening up of new sectors and enhancement of caps for existing sectors, various conditionalities for foreign investments have also been simplified. The Government has also taken up a series of measures to improve Ease of Doing Business. The emphasis has been on simplification and rationalization of the existing rules and introduction of information technology to make governance more efficient and effective.

In the electronics and defence sectors, the following steps have been taken to promote growth of exports and reduction in imports:

**Electronics:** Following schemes namely Modified Special Incentives Package Scheme (M-SIPS) of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Preferential Market Access, Electronic Manufacturing Clusters (EMC), Electronics Development Fund (EDF) are implemented and supported with Interest Equalization on Export Credit, Advance License, Duty Drawback Export Benefit Scheme, Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme.

**Defence:** Following steps have been taken for growth of exports and becoming less dependent on imports in Defence Sector:

- (i) To increase the self-reliance and export of defence equipment, there is greater focus now on indigenous design, development and manufacture of defence equipment in the Defence Production Policy and the Defence Procurement Procedure.
- (ii) Defence Export Strategy has been formulated and placed in the public domain. The strategy provides for creation of an Export Promotion Body, engaging Indian Missions/Embassies abroad in export promotion, export financing through line of credit etc., better use of offset policy, export of indigenously developed defence systems and streamlining of the export regulation process.
- (iii) The list of munition list items for the purpose of issuing “Authorisation” for export has been notified by the Government to remove ambiguity and to make the process transparent.
- (iv) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for issue of “Authorisation” for export of military stores has been simplified and put in public domain. Requirement of Government signed End User Certificate (EUC) for export of parts and

components and other non-sensitive military stores, sub-assemblies, sub-systems has been done away with.

- (v) The process of applying for “Authorisation” for export of munition list items has been made on-line.
- (vi) Specific time frame has been prescribed in SOP for issue of “Authorisation” for export of munition list items.
- (vii) The Defence Public Sector Undertakings/Ordinance Factories also participate in International defence exhibitions in major countries like France, United Kingdom, Brazil, Japan, South Africa, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Germany etc. to showcase their defence products and explore business opportunities abroad.
- (viii) A compendium of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed products having export potential was released by DRDO. This will help the industries to explore the potential export market.

**Installation of donation boxes at Mahatma Gandhi’s Memorial at Rajghat**

500. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed installation of donation boxes at Mahatma Gandhi’s Memorial at Rajghat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for proper maintenance of Rajghat as well as removal of donation boxes, disrespectful to the Father of the Nation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Under the Rajghat Samadhi Act, 1951, Rajghat Samadhi Committee (RSC) had been constituted with a mandate to keep the Samadhi in proper order. The RSC, in its 27th meeting held on 06.09.1961 passed a resolution for placing the donation boxes in the Rajghat Complex. This resolution was based on the Government of India’s letter No. 3250-WS/53 dated 12.06.1953. The donations are collected by the Harijan Sevak Sangh to be utilized for the welfare of the people belonging to dalit communities. RSC is functioning as per its mandate and taking all necessary steps for maintenance of Rajghat Complex. No decision has been taken for removal of donation boxes from Samadhi Complex.