

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (April-December)
Growth rate of Index of Industrial Production (in per cent)	3.3	4.6	3.7*

*Provisional.

Source: Central Statistics Office.

(b) The slower growth during April-December 2017 as compared to the previous year has been primarily due to large scale destocking by manufacturing units, during the first quarter of the current financial year (April-June 2017), in the run up to the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) w.e.f 1st July 2017. Slowdown in the growth rate of exports of sectors such as Ready Made Garments (RMG) of all textiles and Gems and Jewellery has also partly affected the performance of manufacturing sector during the current financial year. However, as per the latest available Index of Industrial Production the manufacturing sector production has seen strong rebound in recent months registering an increase of 10.7 per cent in November 2017 and 8.4 per cent in December, 2017.

(c) Government is continuously taking steps to boost growth in the industry which *inter alia* includes putting in place a policy framework to create conducive business environment, strengthening infrastructure network and ensuring availability of required inputs. Make in India initiative aims to make India a hub for manufacturing, design and innovation. It focuses on infrastructure, simplified processes, job creation, skill development and fostering innovation in select thrust sectors. This initiative is based on four pillars of New Processes, New Infrastructure, New Sectors and New Mindset, which have been identified to give boost not only in manufacturing but also in other sectors. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy and procedures have been simplified and liberalised progressively. 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.

Impact of 100 per cent FDI in single brand retail

2095. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 53 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th February, 2018 and state:

(a) whether as per the statement of the present Prime Minister of India given in 2012, 49 per cent FDI in retail will harm shopkeepers, manufacturing sector and create joblessness; and

(b) if so, how 100 per cent FDI in single brand retail through automatic route would be beneficial for the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) This Department does not have any knowledge of such a statement. Further, FDI policy on Single Brand Retail Trading (SBRT) has been in operation since 2006 when 51% FDI was permitted under Government approval route. Thereafter, in 2012, FDI limit for the sector was raised to 100%, under approval route. Thus, 100% FDI in SBRT has been in force since 2012. In 2013, the policy was further revised to permit 49% FDI under automatic route and FDI beyond 49% and up to 100% under Government approval route. FDI policy in the SBRT sector has gradually evolved over the years and there are now well established and clear provisions laid down in the policy on SBRT. Accordingly, 100% FDI has now been permitted through automatic route, subject to compliance of conditions prescribed for this sector.

FDI policy on SBRT is aimed at promoting much needed investment in the sector, promote global best practices and integrate domestic businesses to the global supply chain. Integration with the organized retail chains helps small manufacturers address issues such as lack of a viable brand image/ advertising platform and assurance of product quality. Further, FDI complements and supplements domestic investment and domestic companies are benefited by way of access to supplementary capital and state-of-art-technologies, resulting in employment generation and accelerated growth of the sector.

Jobs created under SEZs

2096. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many companies have been allotted land and permission to run units in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) of the country, year-wise and State-wise details thereof;

(b) how many jobs have been created in the units functioning from SEZs, year-wise details thereof;

(c) how many units are functioning alongwith the number of workforce in SEZs at present, State-wise details thereof; and