

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government proposes to set up National Traders' Welfare Board and formulate a National Policy for Retail Trade. Stakeholder consultations are being held for the same.

Working women's hostels in SEZs

3088. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of working women's hostels built in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) over the last five years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government plans to improve the transportation facilities for women working in SEZs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Special Economic Zones (SEZs) being set up under the SEZ Act, 2005 and SEZ Rules, 2006 are primarily private investment driven. As per the SEZ Act, 2005 and SEZ Rules, 2006, the developer of SEZs provides infrastructure facility for their employees and units in SEZs. No working women's hostel has been built in any SEZ over the last five years.

Preventing chinese goods from flooding the country through duty-free route

3089. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chinese garments are making their way into India through the duty-free route under the South Asia Free Trade Pact and the Duty-Free Quota-Free window from Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto and the steps taken to prevent Chinese goods from flooding the country through member countries that may have lower or no duty levels?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) India has provided duty-free access for almost all products to all Least Developed Countries (LDCs), which are members of South Asian Association for Regional

Cooperation (SAARC), including Bangladesh, under the provisions of The Agreement, on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA). However, SAFTA prescribes certain value addition in the territory of the exporting member country before the product is eligible for concessionary duty under the agreement. Similarly, under Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme, India has allowed duty-free quota-free access to almost all products from LDCs, including Bangladesh. DFTP scheme also prescribes certain value addition norms, upon fulfillment of which a product is eligible for concessionary duty under the scheme. Hence, only those third-country origin products that fulfill the value addition norms under SAFTA and DFTP scheme can avail the respective concessionary duties.

Central Board of Indirect taxes and Customs (CBIC), Ministry of Finance has, however, been requested to take necessary steps for strict verification of value addition norms relating to import of products, to ensure that no import of third-country origin products takes place through the neighbouring countries, without due compliance to the prescribed norms of value addition.

State of hunger in the country

3090. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the country, with 277 million tonne food production, stands at 103rd position out of 119 countries in the Global Hunger Index with a score of 31.1;
- (b) if so, the steps Government is going to take to face this challenge of serious hunger state; and
- (c) the reasons for this condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) As per information available in the public domain, India's ranking in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) brought out by Concern World Wide is 103. As per GHI Report 2018 of Concern World Wide, the composite GHI scores of India have improved from 38.8 in 2000 to 31.1 in 2018. Thus the country has shown consistent improvement over the years.

(b) and (c) The Government of India accords high priority to the issue of hunger and has been providing foodgrains at highly subsidized prices to the targeted population through State Governments/Union Territory Administrations under the Targeted Public