

DIPAM has obtained approval CCEA for sale of 100% Government of India equity in a profit making PSD, namely, Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Limited (KAPL), comes under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, based on recommendations of NITI Ayog.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Three representations were received from stakeholders especially employees union and association, as detailed under:-

- (i) During March, 2017, this Department has received a representation regarding merger of PDIL with similar Government Consultancy from staff of PDIL. Meanwhile, DIPAM had also requested to factor in the interest shown by Engineers India Limited (EIL). The conditional financial bid submitted by EIL has been rejected as recommended by CGD. Therefore, the merger of PDIL with EIL could not be done. Thereafter, this Department has again initiate the disinvestment process of PDIL through strategic sale.
- (ii) Later, in June 2019, Projects and Development India Limited Employees' Association (PDILEA) had requested DoF to merge PDIL with other giant CPSE. However, Secretary (DIPAM) had clarified that CPSEs may not be allowed to participate in the bidding for PDIL in fresh transactions. However, in the EC meeting held on 17.9.2019, it was informed by JS, DIPAM, that CPSEs will also be allowed to participate in the bidding.
- (iii) Employees' unions of BCPL have filed petitions in the Hon'ble High Court of Kolkata against the decision. Hon'ble High Court has set aside the decision of the strategic sale of the Company, An appeal has been filed before the Division Bench of the Court in the matter. In case of KAPL, it has been assigned the responsibility of being the sole manufacture and distribution of Oxytocin in the country. It has been decided that the decision of disinvestment will not materialized, if Government Scheme of manufacturing Oxytocin through public sector receives a confirmation of the higher court.

#### **India's new Free Trade Ageement**

697. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is moving towards a new Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with some countries in the Asia-Pacific Region, if so, the contours thereof;

(b) whether as a result of this new FTA, India's local market would be flooded with comparatively cheap foreign farm, dairy and plantation products, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the domestic products which could be at risk?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) India was negotiating a Free Trade Agreement in the Asia Pacific region known as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) with 10 Members of ASEAN namely Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam as well as their 5 Free Trade Agreement Partners namely, Australia, China, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand. During the 3rd RCEP Summit, which was held on 4th November, 2019 in Bangkok, India highlighted the fact that the current structure of RCEP did not reflect the RCEP Guiding Principles or address the outstanding issues and concerns of India, in light of which it did not join RCEP.

#### **Monitoring system for steel imports**

698. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently developed monitoring system which would provide advance information on steel imports to Government and other stakeholders, if so, details thereof;

(b) whether steel importers would have to submit advance information in online system to get automatic Registration Number, if so, details thereof;

(c) details of validity of Registration Number and documents which have to be entered by importer in Bill of Entry to enable clearance from customs for consignment;

(d) whether this would bring transparency and help solve issue of over invoicing and under invoicing, if so, details thereof; and

(e) further steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has introduced a Steel Import Monitoring System (SIMS) *vide* Notification dated 5th September, 2019 which has changed the import