

Industrial Policy

3105. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of the present Industrial Policy of Government;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has set up a working group to rewrite the existing Industrial Policy;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the extent to which the proposed policy would help to make India a manufacturing hub?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) The proposed Industrial Policy will focus on major sectors of industry to boost competitiveness and share of manufacturing sector in the Indian economy. For this purpose, a Working Group under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade with representation from Central Ministries/ Departments, State Governments, and Industry Associations has been setup.

Impact on export of polished diamonds due to Coronavirus

3106. SHRI K.J. ALPHONS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the impact of Coronavirus on India's exports;
- (b) the steps being taken to minimise the impact; and
- (c) how does it affect the export of polished diamonds and diamond jewellery as Hong Kong has cancelled two prestigious diamond exhibitions?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The outbreak of Corona virus in China and subsequently in other countries has led to restriction on movement of people and business activities in affected countries in order to control the spread of virus.

- (b) Government of India has sensitized Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) and Trade Bodies on actions need to be taken by them to hedge against the potential

risk of disruption in their supply chain and Indian Missions have been asked to put EPCs in touch with the potential buyers and suppliers in their respective countries and facilitate B2B meeting for them.

(c) The outbreak of coronavirus and cancellation of two prestigious diamond exhibitions in Hong Kong are few of the key reasons for decline of exports of polished diamond and diamond Jewellery.

Special Economic Zones in the country

3107. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) approved and operational in the country;

(b) whether there are any SEZs which Government is planning to shut down or has already shut down in the past;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there are any other incentives being explored for SEZs to make them WTO compliant; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) There were 7 Central Government Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and 12 State/Private Sector SEZs prior to the enactment of the SEZ Act, 2005. In addition, 421 proposals for setting up of SEZs in the country have been accorded formal approval under the SEZ Act, 2005. Presently, 354 SEZs are notified, out of which 240 SEZs are operational.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, between 1st April, 2008 and 29th February, 2020, the Board of Approval (BoA) on SEZs on request of SEZ Private Developers, has approved 101 cases of de-notification of SEZs subject to the refund of all duties and tax benefits availed by the SEZ Private Developer and on receipt of 'No-objection' from the concerned State Government. The reasons given for these request for de-notification include poor market response, lack of demand for SEZ space and change in the fiscal incentive regime for SEZs, etc.