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RAJYA SABHA

accreditation body is signatory to Multilateral Arrangement (MLA) of mutual recognition. In the event of the certification body not being accredited or being accredited by an accreditation body which is not a MLA signatory, the authenticity of the certificates is doubtful.

SEZs in the country

2495. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) set up in the country so far, State-wise;

(b) whether the Special Economic Zones set up at Paradeep in Orissa has not been made operational; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Eight Special Economic Zones located at Santa Cruz (Maharashtra), Cochin (Kerala), Kandla and Surat (Gujarat), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Vfsakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), FaHa (West Bengal) and Noida (Uttar Pradesh) are at present functional.

(b) and (c) No SEZ has been set up at Paradeep in Orissa. Only an "in principle"¹ approval has been given for setting up of a Special Economic Zone at Paradeep on the basis of the proposal received from the Government of Orissa. State Government has to select the developer for setting up the SEZ.

Export order off potato from foreign countries

†2496. SHRI JAYANTI LAL BAROT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received order from any country for the export of potato;

(b) if so, the names of the countries from which Government have received export order togetherwrth the quantum to be exported, Year-wise; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the names of the States wherefrom Government are considering to export potato to meet the export order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State-wise export data is not maintained for any commodity. However, exports of potato are likely to take place from major potato growing States such as Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Patenting of Indian Goods/items by European countries

†2497. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the cases brought to the Government's notice wherein the European countries have got the patent of Indian goods/items and they continue to get the same;

(b) the details of the goods/items in respect of which the patent had been taken back from the European countries by India;

(c) whether it is a fact that the patent of jute from the London based firm, the Geo Hess had been taken back by the Jute Production Development Council constituted recently for the ailing jute industries of the country; and

(d) if so, the assistance which Government provide to the entrepreneurs of the country in such matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Patents are granted under the sovereign prerogative of countries according to their respective patent laws and have territorial effect, that is, they are effective only in the country of grant. In order to qualify for grant of patent in any country an invention, whether process or product, has to meet the criteria of patentability, namely, novelty, inventiveness and industrial applicability. Indian goods/items, which are already in public knowledge, cannot be patented.

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