

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6668
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2002
EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCILS
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the location-wise details of existing Export Promotion Councils;
- (b) whether the Government are considering the formation of more Export Promotion Councils to answer the needs of new areas of exports and new commodities that are being exported;
- (c) if so, the details of new Export Promotion Councils under consideration;
- (d) the manner in which the Government propose to strengthen the existing Export Promotion Councils;
- (e) whether the Government are also considering to make certain changes in the system of election to the Governing bodies of such Councils; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a): Location-wise details of the existing export promotion councils are given in the statement enclosed.

(b)&(c) : Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) are set up by the industry to promote exports of products relating to a particular segment of the industry and then recognized by the Government on fulfilling the prescribed criteria for recognition of new EPCs.No recent requests fulfilling the criteria have been received from the industry to recognize more EPCs for exports of new areas of exports and new commodities.

(d) : In view of the significant changes that have taken place in the international trade environment in the recent years, especially after the conclusion of the Uruguay Round and the establishment of WTO, it was felt necessary to restructure the Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) with a view to making them more responsive to the needs of their members as well as to introduce greater professionalism for improving the quality of services being provided to their members. The Government have accordingly prescribed a set of Model Bye Laws for adoption by EPCs which will lead to the rationalisation of their administrative and election procedures ensuring that real exporters have a more effective say in the management of the EPCs thus contributing to greater efficiency and transparency in their functioning.

(e)& (f) In the Model Bye Laws/Articles of Association circulated to the EPCs it has, inter alia, been proposed that voting rights and right of standing for election to various positions in the EPCs should be given only to such members as are having an established standing over a minimum period of three years. It has also been stipulated that there shall be two categories of members namely Associate members and Ordinary members. New members shall first be enrolled as Associate members and after having continuous membership for at least three years, they would be eligible for Ordinary membership of the Council provided the company represented by him has to its credit during the three financial years, immediately preceding, minimum prescribed average exports. The ordinary member shall have the right to vote and offer himself as a candidate at elections to various positions in the Council.