

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:157

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2004

SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE

Khaira Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Majhi Shri Parsuram

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

- (a) the details of progress of work carried in the Special Economic Zones set up by the previous Government;
- (b) by when these zones will start operations;
- (c) whether Special Economic Zones are proposed to be set up exclusively for the development of biotechnology parks and warehouses;
- (d) if so, details of the action plan formulated so far;
- (e) whether representation have been received to strengthen infrastructure for SEZs; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH)

(a) & (b): In accordance with the Policy announced by the Central Government on Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in 2000, no new SEZs are to be set up by the Central Government. Eight functioning Export Processing Zones located at Kandla and Surat (Gujarat), Santa Cruz (Maharashtra), Cochin (Kerala), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Falta (West Bengal) and Noida (U.P.) were converted into SEZs between 2000 and 2003. In addition, out of the 24 new SEZs approved for establishment (as on 31.3.04), in the private/joint sector with the State Governments or by the State Governments, 3 SEZs at Salt Lake (Manikanchan), Indore, and Jaipur have become operational and another 2 SEZs are now ready for operation.

(c) & (d): One SEZ for information technology, including bioinformatics, has been approved recently for establishment at Mahindra City near Chennai on the basis of a proposal received from M/s. Mahindra Industrial Park Limited. Further, the Foreign Trade Policy announced on 31.8.2004 provides a policy frame work for setting up of Free Trade and Warehousing Zones with a focus on trading and warehousing.

(e) & (f): The infrastructure in the existing SEZs is being developed further based on the requirements for setting up new units and operation of existing units in these SEZs.