

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3504

ANSWERED ON:23.12.2008

CONVERSION OF EPZ INTO SEZ

Barman Shri Hiten;Barman Shri Ranen;Bose Shri Subrata;Mahato Shri Narahari;Prasad Shri Hari Kewal;Renge Patil Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao

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

- (a) the number of EPZs in the country, State-wise including the State of West Bengal;
- (b) whether a number of Export Processing Zones (EPZs) have been converted into Special Economic Zones (SEZs);
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the working of EPZs has been reviewed in the last three years and the current year;
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for slow performance of EPZs; and
- (f) the details of action plan/fresh policy initiatives taken for restructuring the working of EPZs and proposal for establishment of new EPZs in the country including West Bengal, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)to (c): Eight Export Processing Zones (EPZs) were converted into Special Economic Zones (SEZs) with the enactment of SEZ Act 2005/SEZ Rules 2006. Falta was one of such EPZ located in the State of West Bengal.

(d) to (f) As per the latest available information, exports from 7 Central Government EPZs converted into SEZs are in the order of Rs 39275.11 crores in 2007-08 as against exports of Rs.19656.67 crore in 2005-06, registering a growth of 50%. Similarly, investment made in these SEZs is Rs. 4430.86 croes and employment has been generated for 1,97,625 persons. Government does not propose to establish new EPZs.