

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4935
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2012
AEZS
Alagiri Shri S. ;Choudhary Shri Harish

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

- (a) whether the Government has noticed any shortcoming in the functioning of Agri Export Zones (AEZs) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any enquiry has been conducted to ascertain the reasons of such shortcomings;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to overcome such shortcoming in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b to d) A peer evaluation of the existing AEZs was carried out in December 2004 to assess the performance of AEZs. Some of the important findings of the peer evaluation include i) Lack of ownership by Government Authority and their Agencies, ii) Lack of awareness about the scheme and its conceptual framework among stakeholders including State Government field establishments, iii) Lack of project orientation in the conceptual design of AEZ, iv) Lack of coordination/ monitoring system in AEZs, v) Non materialization of adequate public investment from Central and State Governments, vi) indiscreet proliferation of AEZs etc.

(e) The remedial action plan mainly aims at creating institutional/ administrative mechanism for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of AEZs and short listing of a few AEZs for special focus for their revival as well as to make them model AEZs. Accordingly, the Department of Commerce selected 4 AEZs (Flowers in Sikkim, Mango in Andhra Pradesh, Pineapple in West Bengal and Ginger in Assam) for infrastructure development to boost exports from these states. The Department approved a financial outlay of Rs.48.85 crores for execution of 16 infrastructure projects under Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme in 4 AEZs mentioned above.