

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2711

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2012

AGRI EXPORT ZONES

Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram;Jaiswal Shri Gorakh Prasad ;Sinh Dr. Sanjay

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

- (a) the details of the Agri Export Zones (AEZs) set up in different parts of the country, State-wise and location-wise particularly in Maharashtra;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to set up new AEZs across the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has noticed any shortcomings in the functioning of the existing AEZs and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to overcome these shortcomings?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(DR. D. PURANDESWARI)

- (a) The details of the Agri Export Zones (AEZs) set up in different parts of the country, State-wise and location-wise are at Annexure – I.
- (b) No, Madam. A peer evaluation of the existing AEZs was carried out in December 2004 to assess the performance of AEZs. On the basis of recommendations of the peer group in 2005, it was decided not to consider Notification of new AEZs unless there were strong compelling reasons.
- (c) Some of the important findings of the above 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.
- (d) 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.