

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3911
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2009
AGRI EXPORT ZONES
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

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

- (a) the details regarding performance of Agri-Export Zones (AEZs) during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to review the policy regarding setting up of AEZs; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) The Government of India has sanctioned 60 Agri-Export Zones (AEZs) in 20 States. The actual investments in these AEZs is Rs.1162.37 crores and the actual exports is about Rs.10738 crores.

(b-c) A peer evaluation of the existing AEZs was carried out with a view to ascertain the reasons for shortfall in their performance and to suggest a remedial action plan. The review revealed that the AEZ were not able to make headway, mainly, owing to lack of:

- (i) Project orientation in their conceptual design;
- (ii) Awareness amongst the field functionaries about the concept of AEZs;
- (iii) Effective agency to coordinate with other implementing agencies and monitor the performance of the AEZs' and
- (iv) Effective public participation.

The main elements of the remedial action plan are setting up of institutional administrative mechanism for coordinating and monitoring the progress of implementation of AEZs and short listing of a few AEZs for special focus for their revival as well as to make them model AEZs.