

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2055

ANSWERED ON:31.07.2015

Missing Files on SEZ Allocation

Kamal Nath Shri ;Parthipan Shri R.;Rao Shri Konakalla Narayana;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao;Sundaram Shri P.R.

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

- a) whether several files relating to allocation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are reportedly found missing, and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- b) whether any inquiry has been made by the Government in this regard and if so, the details and the outcome thereof including the action taken/being taken against the erring officials;
- c) whether any inquiry has also been initiated by the Government against the corporate beneficiaries reportedly by passing norms in SEZ land allocation; and
- d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof along with the action taken in the matter?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) and (b): The Comptroller and Auditor General of India in its Report for the year 2012-13 on Performance of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) has observed that 47 files were not produced to Audit. On scrutiny it has been found that all the files except five are available in the Department and were made available to the Audit. The remaining five files relating to setting up of Central Government SEZs, which are of 30-50 years old, could not be located. As per record retention schedule of Department of Commerce, the retention period of these files has expired.

(c) and (d): As per Entry No. 18 of the State List in the 7th schedule of the Constitution of India, land is a State subject. Land for SEZs is provided by the concerned State Governments. The Board of Approval (BoA) on SEZs only considers those proposals which have been duly recommended by the State Governments. Since land is a State subject, State Governments are free to frame any law/rule on the subject. If any violation of the SEZ provisions are noticed action is taken under the SEZ laws.
