

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2482

ANSWERED ON:25.07.2014

REVIEW OF SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE POLICY .

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

- (a) whether the operationalization of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) as instruments of industrial production, economic growth, export promotion and employment generation has been satisfactory and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor indicating the area of available land which still remained unutilized;
- (b) the contribution of SEZs in foreign exchange earnings of the country during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to de-recognise those SEZs which have not yet started any activity and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to review the policy and operational framework of SEZ scheme and if so, the details thereof along with the progress made in this regard and the time by which the revised SEZ policy framework is likely to be implemented; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to facilitate speedy and effective implementation of SEZ Scheme?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) & (b): Setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) is a long term process and time for completion of project depends on several issues. In addition to Seven Central Government Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and 11 State/Private Sector SEZs set-up prior to the enactment of the SEZ Act, 2005, formal approval has been accorded to 565 proposals out of which 388 SEZs have been notified. Presently, a total of 185 SEZs are exporting. As on 23.1.2014, the total area involving 21,310.03 hectares of land are lying vacant in processing area of the notified SEZs. The exports from SEZs, employment generated and investment made in SEZs during the last three years are as under:

Year(s)	Financial Exports (Rs. Crore)	Growth over previous year	Employment#
2011-2012	3,64,478	15.39%	8,44,916
2012-2013	4,76,159	31%	10,74,904
2013-2014	4,94,077	4%	12,83,309

calculated on cumulative basis.

(c): As on 22.7.2014, the Board of Approval on SEZ has approved 69 requests for de-notification of SEZs.

(d) & (e): Review of functioning of SEZs is an on-going process and on the basis of inputs/suggestions received from stakeholders on the policy and operational framework of the SEZ Scheme, Government periodically takes necessary measures so as to facilitate speedy and effective implementation of SEZ Scheme.