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Title: Need for setting up of Special Economic Zone at Jalandhar. – Laid.

SHRI GURJEET SINGH RANA (JALANDHAR): During election campaign the electorate of Jalandhar constituency were promised Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Jalandhar.

Punjab has 20.4 lakh registered SSI Units with an investment of \$ 4,460 million employing 12 lakh persons. The total industrial production in the State is about \$ 10,600 million. The export of industrial goods from Punjab has increased from \$ 880 million in 2001-2002 to \$ 1800 million in the year 2003-2004.

Jalandhar has emerged as an industrial centre specially in SSI sector in the areas of surgical instruments, sports goods, hand tools, automobile parts, cocks and valves, pipe fittings, bus-body building, leather tanneries, ball bearings, publications, switching and switch gears, steel rolling, hardware, domestic appliances, foundries and fabrication etc. These Units have made their mark internationally.

If SEZ is set up there, SSI units would attract new investments which will generate employment. This will be a tribute to the industry which has gone to the extent of closure in view of rising steel prices but have struggled for survival in the true Punjabi spirit.

The SEZ benefits in terms of fiscal incentives and exemptions would make them stand up at par with the industries in the adjoining States of HP, J & K and Uttaranchal which are already availing these benefits.