

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has inquired into the alleged scam and has fixed responsibility in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No such scam has been reported to the Government.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Concession for industrial units in Himachal Pradesh

1710. SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Central Government is contemplating to giving a package of concessions for industrial units in Himachal Pradesh; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Package of concessions for industrial units in Himachal Pradesh has expired on 06-01-2013. Based on the outcome of the Impact Evaluation Study and in consultation with stakeholders, proposal to continue the package during Twelfth Plan is under consideration.

FTA with Australia

1711. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to enter into a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Australia to remove the barriers on trade and investment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of discussions held between the two countries; and
- (d) the time-frame fixed by Government for entering into FTA between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes. India and Australia

agreed in early 2008 to set up a Joint Study Group (JSG) comprising Government officials and research organizations to explore the feasibility of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two countries. A considered view on whether to go ahead to an FTA has been taken by the Government (Trade and Economic Related Committee) based on the report of the JSG. As per the approval, both the countries have started negotiations for Free Trade Agreement (FTA)/ Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) covering trade in goods, services, investment and related issues.

(c) So far four rounds of negotiations have been held. The 1st round of India-Australia CECA negotiations was held during 28th-29th July, 2011 and the 4th round of negotiations was held on 8-9th November, 2012 in New Delhi where both sides had exchanged their Goods Offer. During 4th round of negotiations, discussions were held in the Working Groups on goods, investment, services, legal and institutional matter, Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS)/Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Rules of Origin and Customs procedures and Trade facilitation.

(d) The negotiations are currently under way and no time-frame has been fixed by the Government for entering into FTA between India and Australia.

Import of chemicals

1712 DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some chemical/drug companies were given licences to import chemicals along with the type of chemicals they were authorized to import;

(b) if so, the details and the names of such companies and quantum of chemicals imported by them during each of the last three years and the current year along with the value thereof;

(c) whether any complaints have been received by Government as these companies were given any concession; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Import of Chemicals/drugs is classified under Chapter 28, 29 and 30 of ITC(HS) Classification of Export and Import Items. Import of these items is largely free and only a few items are "Restricted" for import. The detail of permission granted for import of "Restricted" chemicals is given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) No such complaint has been received in DGFT.