

regularly. Also, Indian exporters are encouraged to participate in major trade fairs in China to show-case Indian products in the Chinese market and increase engagement with Chinese companies. Participation of Indian exporters in trade fairs educates the Chinese importers about niche Indian products. Business to Business relations are encouraged through schemes such as Market Access Initiative (MAI)/Market Development Assistance (MDA).

(d) and (e) During the visit of the Chinese Foreign Minister to India in June, 2014, the discussion centred around the potential for greater co-operation between India and China and towards working for mutually beneficial trade and investment as economic partners.

Amritsar-Kolkata industrial corridor

2142. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to introduce Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of States to be included within the proposed corridor and how much employment would be generated therefrom;
- (d) whether Government has future plans to extend the Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor upto Siliguri to make its 'Look East Policy' more meaningful; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) The Government of India has accorded in-principle approval for setting up the Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC).

(c) The States of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal are proposed to be covered by the AKIC. It is premature to forecast the employment generation as the project is in its initial stage.

(d) and (e) The present plan is to set up the corridor upto Kolkata. It is premature to forecast the future plans to extend the AKIC upto Siliguri.

Contraction in manufacturing growth

2143. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that growth of manufacturing sector has contracted by 0.7 per cent in 2013-14 for the first time since 1991-92;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to revive the manufacturing growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) As per the National Accounts Statistics, the annual growth rate (at 2004-05 prices) of the manufacturing sector in 1991-92 was negative at (-) 2.4 per cent, after which the annual growth rate remained positive in successive years before becoming marginally negative at (-) 0.7 per cent in 2013-14. A Table showing the growth rate of manufacturing sector from 1991-92 to 2013-14 is given in the Statement (*See* below). The reasons for the decline in growth of manufacturing sector in recent years, *inter-alia*, are moderation in domestic demand, inflationary pressures, increase in input costs and slowdown in economies of other parts of the world etc.

(c) The Government has taken various measures fo revive the manufacturing growth including announcement of National Manufacturing Policy (NMP) in 2011, simplification and rationalization of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy, implementation of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project, conceptualization of Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor, Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor, Bengaluru- Mumbai Economic Corridor and East Coast Economic Corridor, launching of the e-biz Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan, taking proactive steps for ease of doing business by taking stock of best practices across States and endorsing them, identifying and simplifying the approval procedures etc.

The Union Budget 2014-15 presented on 10th July, 2014 in the Parliament has also announced a number of measures to revive the industrial growth in the country. The measures outlined in the Union Budget, *inter alia*, include increasing composite caps of foreign investment in Defence and Insurance sectors to 49 per cent, easing norms of built up area and capital conditions for FDI for development of smart cities, capital investment of more than ₹ 2 lakh crore by Public Sector Undertakings, incentives for Real Estate Investment Trusts and Infrastructure Investment Trusts to attract long term finance from foreign and domestic sources, raising scope and period of investment allowance to industry and correction of inverted duty structure in manufacturing products etc.

Statement*Growth Rates (in %) of manufacturing sector at constant prices (2004-05)*

Year	Growth Rate (in %)
1991-1992	(-) 2.4
1992-1993	3.1
1993-1994	8.6
1994-1995	10.8
1995-1996	15.5
1996-1997	9.5
1997-1998	0.1
1998-1999	3.1
1999-2000	5.4
2000-2001	7.3
2001-2002	2.3
2002-2003	6.9
2003-2004	6.3
2004-2005	7.4
2005-2006	10.1
2006-2007	14.3
2007-2008	10.3
2008-2009	4.3
2009-2010	11.3
2010-2011	8.9
2011-2012	7.4
2012-2013	1.1
2013-2014	(-) 0.7

Source: CSO (National Accounts Statistics)