GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1540

ANSWERED ON-23.07.2014

Increasing trade and commerce with China

1540. Shri Anil Desai

a) whether it is a fact that Government has initiated efforts to increase trade and commerce with China;

b) whether it is also a fact that during a recent visit to China, the Indian side has discussed setting up of Chinese manufacturing units in India and vice-versa, if so, the details of the agreement;

c) the steps taken to ensure quality of the products keeping in view the low standard of Chinese consumer goods; and

d) the steps taken for an inbuilt mechanism for safe disposal of industrial pollutants of such manufacturing units/ factories and stricter norms against pollution?

ANSWER

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

(a) Yes, Sir. It is the Government's constant endeavour to increase trade and commerce with other countries, including China.

(b) During the recent visit of MOS (C&I) (IC) to China, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation on Industrial Parks in India was signed between the Ministry of Commerce & Industry of India and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China on 30th June 2014. This would expand the scope of bilateral trade and investment cooperation, and promote cooperation between Chinese and Indian enterprises including the development of Industrial parks, Special Economic Zone (SEZ), National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) etc. in India

(c) Any goods imported into India are subject to domestic laws, rules, orders, regulations, technical specifications, environment and safety norms. These regulations are notified in ITC (HS) classification of export and import items. The Government acts in case goods imported from any source are found to violate these regulations and threaten human, animal or plant life or health. In specific cases where Customs detect import of substandard and hazardous goods, they are empowered to seize the goods and initiate penal action under the provisions of Customs Act, 1962 read with other Allied Acts. In the recent past, the Government has taken steps to prevent/restrict import of toys, milk & milk products (including chocolates and chocolate products and candies/confectionaries/food preparation with milk or milk solids as ingredient) from China.

(d) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has in place multi-prong strategies in the form of regulations, legislations, agreements, fiscal incentives and other measures to prevent and abate pollution. Under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 the industry desirous to establish or operate any process or any treatment and disposal system is required to obtain consent to establish/consent to operate from the concerned State Pollution Control Board/Pollution Control Committee. The State Boards prescribes the norms for discharge of effluents/release of emissions which the industry has to adhere too. Industry specific norms are notified under the Environmental Protection Act. The State Pollution Control Board / Pollution Control Committees can prescribe norms more stringent than those specified under the Environmental Protection Act but are not allowed to relax the existing norms. These norms as specified in the consent to establish/consent to operate have to be complied by the industry.

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