

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1485
ANSWERED ON 31/07/2026

**DEVELOPMENT OF EXPORT CLUSTERS, MSME OUTREACH AND RURAL
INTEGRATION INTO SUPPLY CHAINS**

1485. SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA

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

- (a) whether any Special Economic Zones, export promotion councils or MSME outreach clusters are being developed in Auraiya, Gorakhpur and Etawah districts;
- (b) the level of participation of SHGs or rural entrepreneurs in export-related schemes like Market Access Initiative (MAI) and Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES);
- (c) whether these districts have benefitted from logistics park or e-commerce connectivity support; and
- (d) the Ministry's future action plan to integrate rural MSMEs into national and international supply chains?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) Special Economic Zones (SEZs) set up under the SEZ Act, 2005 and SEZ Rules, 2006 are primarily private investment driven initiatives. An SEZ may be set up either jointly or severally by the Central Government, State Government or any person for manufacture of goods or rendering services or for both or as a free trade warehousing zone. Post-enactment of the SEZ Act, 2005, the Central Government has not set up any SEZ in the country. At present, no such proposal has been received to establish any SEZ in Auraiya, Gorakhpur and Etawah districts of Uttar Pradesh.

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is implementing the Micro and Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP) across the country. This is a demand driven Central Sector Scheme under which proposals are received from the State/UT Governments to address the common needs of existing clusters in their respective States/UTs. At present, no project is being developed under the Scheme in Auraiya, Gorakhpur and Etawah districts. However, one project has been approved for Flatted Factory Complex (FFC) at Gorakhpur during 2022-23.

In the state of Uttar Pradesh, including Auraiya, Gorakhpur and Etawah districts, Federation of

Indian Export Organisation (FIEO), Agricultural Produce Export Development Agency (APEDA), Council for Leather Exports, Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, and Carpet Export Promotion Council are active Export Promotion Councils (EPCs). To facilitate grassroots export growth and resolve structural bottlenecks, an institutional framework has been established at two levels: State Export Promotion Committees (SEPCs) at the State level, and District Export Promotion Committees (DEPCs) at the district level.

(b) Export Promotion Mission (EPM) approved by Cabinet on 12 November 2025 aims at strengthening India's overall export competitiveness and providing targeted, structured support to exporters in global markets, with a dedicated focus on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), rural entrepreneurs, and emerging export hubs across all States and Union Territories. EPM consolidates key export support schemes such as Market Access Initiative (MAI), aligning it with contemporary trade needs.

Further, the Ministry provides financial assistance under the Trade Infrastructure for Exports Scheme (TIES) in the form of grant-in-aid to Central/State Government owned agencies for setting up or for up-gradation of export infrastructure. The projects financed under the scheme provide inclusive benefits for small players in export value chain. However, Self Help Groups (SHGs) and rural entrepreneurs are not eligible beneficiaries as per the scheme guidelines under MAI and TIES.

(c) and (d) The Government has undertaken e-commerce exports policy and facilitation measures so that all districts including Auraiya, Goarkhpur and Etawah are benefitted. They include implementation of E-Commerce Export Hubs (ECEHs) initiative on pilot basis to create an integrated ecosystem for e-commerce exports by facilitating logistics, customs clearance and other export-related services, leveraging the Districts as Export Hubs (DEH) initiative to promote greater participation of district-level producers and rural MSMEs in global markets through digital channels, etc.

The above initiatives are aimed at expanding participation of rural MSMEs in global supply chains by strengthening export infrastructure, improving access to global markets and facilitating the integration of MSMEs and district level producers into international value chains.
