

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3729
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 18.12.2024

SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES

3729. SHRI MUHAMMED HAMDULLAH SAYEED:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any amendments to the minimum area requirement for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) specialising electronic hardware and software;
- (b) the total number of SEZs operational in the country specifically for electronics hardware and software; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to attract investments in these SEZs and their impact on the country's electronic manufacturing industry?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a): As per amendment to SEZ Rules, 2006, carried out on 17th December, 2019, the minimum land area requirement for setting up a Special Economic Zone or Free Trade Warehousing Zone other than a Special Economic Zone for Information Technology or Information Technology enabled Services, Biotech or Health (other than hospital) service, is a contiguous land area of fifty hectares or more. In case a Special Economic Zone is proposed to be set up in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Goa or in a Union territory, the minimum area required is twenty-five hectares or more.

There is no minimum land area requirement for setting up a Special Economic Zone for Information Technology or Information Technology enabled Services, Biotech or Health (other than hospital) service. A minimum built up processing area requirement, based on the category of cities, is indicated in the following Table:

Sl. No.	Categories of cities	Minimum built-up area requirement
1	Category 'A'	50,000 sq.mts.
2	Category 'B'	25,000 sq. mts.
3	Category 'C'	15,000 sq. mts.

(b): At present, there are 370 notified Special Economic Zones (SEZs) including 229 Information Technology or Information Technology enabled Services (IT/ITES) SEZs. Out of the total 370 SEZs, 278 SEZs are operational including 168 IT/ITES SEZs.

(c): SEZ reform is an ongoing process and on the basis of inputs/suggestions received from stakeholders on the policy and operational framework of the SEZs, the Government regularly takes necessary measures for attracting investment, facilitating smooth and effective implementation of the SEZ Act/Rules, including conducting of outreach activities. During the last 5 years, 32 SEZs have been notified in the country including 17 IT/ITES SEZs. Further, export from IT/ITES SEZs has increased continuously with double digit growth during the last 5 years, as below:

Year	Export from IT/ITES SEZs (Value in Rs. Crore)	Growth Rate in % (over previous year)
2019-2020	4,74,259	26%
2020-2021	5,20,207	10%
2021-2022	6,07,265	17%
2022-2023	7,75,584	28%
2023-2024	8,86,999	14%
