

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2628**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.03.2021

**IMPEDIMENTS FACED BY ELECTRONIC HARDWARE  
MANUFACTURING SECTOR**

**2628. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR:**

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

- (a) whether Government has identified major impediments faced by the electronics hardware manufacturing sector in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to remove those impediments;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)

(a) and (b): The major impediments faced by the electronics hardware manufacturing sector in the country are as under:

**(i) Information Technology Agreement and FTAs:** Electronics was the first sector to be opened up and which accepted zero duty regime for large number of products. As a signatory to the Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) of the World Trade Organization (WTO), India has implemented zero duty regime on 217 tariff lines. Under the Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), the import of electronics hardware from the FTA countries such as ASEAN, Korea and Japan is allowed at a duty which is lower than the normal duty rate. Thus, there is limited protection to the electronics industry in the country.

**(ii) Disability costs in domestic manufacturing:** The electronics manufacturing sector faces several disabilities which render domestic manufacturing uncompetitive. The three factors which pose challenges to Indian manufacturers are infrastructure, power, and finance. Infrastructure challenges arise from poor supply chain logistics and inadequate ready availability of land. Finance costs in India are typically 5 to 6 percentage points above international rates. Power supply has improved much in the few years but it still remains unreliable and costly in many parts of the country.

**(iii) Diversity and velocity of technology change:** Electronics is pervasive and spans all sectors. Therefore, the development of the sector involves domain knowledge of each of the sectors which it serves. The half-life of technologies in the sector has been continuously reducing. Currently, it is estimated to be even less than six months in certain verticals. Convergence between different technologies, devices, software, and hardware are also driving technology changes.

(c) and (d): Steps taken by the Government to promote the electronics hardware manufacturing sector in the country, by addressing the disabilities, are annexed.

(e): Does not arise.

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## Annexure

### **Steps taken by the Government to promote the electronics hardware manufacturing sector in the country**

**1. National Policy on Electronics 2019:** The National Policy on Electronics 2019 (NPE 2019) has been notified on 25.02.2019. The vision of NPE 2019 is to position India as a global hub for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) by encouraging and driving capabilities in the country for developing core components, including chipsets, and creating an enabling environment for the industry to compete globally.

To attract and incentivize large investments in the electronics value chain and promote exports, following three Schemes have been notified under the aegis of NPE 2019:

(i) **Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI)** for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing notified vide Gazette Notification No.CG-DL-E-01042020-218990 dated April 01, 2020 provides an incentive of 4% to 6% to eligible companies on incremental sales (over base year) involved in mobile phone manufacturing and manufacturing of specified electronic components, including Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) units.

(ii) **Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS)** notified vide Gazette Notification No.CG-DL-E-01042020-218992 dated April 01, 2020 provides financial incentive of 25% on capital expenditure for the identified list of electronic goods that comprise downstream value chain of electronic products, i.e., electronic components, semiconductor/ display fabrication units, ATMP units, specialized sub-assemblies and capital goods for manufacture of aforesaid goods.

(iii) **Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) Scheme** notified vide Gazette Notification No.CG-DL-E-01042020-218991 dated April 01, 2020 provides support for creation of world class infrastructure along with common facilities and amenities, including Ready Built Factory (RBF) sheds / Plug and Play facilities for attracting major global electronics manufacturers along with their supply chain to set up units in the country. The Scheme shall provide financial assistance for setting up of both EMC projects and Common Facility Centres (CFCs) across the country.

(iv) **Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for IT Hardware** notified vide Gazette Notification No.CG-DL-E-03032021-225613 dated March 03, 2021 provides an incentive of 4% to 2% / 1% on net incremental sales (over base year) of goods manufactured in India and covered under the target segment, to eligible companies, for a period of four (4) years. The Target Segment under PLI Scheme includes (i) Laptops (ii) Tablets (iii) All-in-One PCs and (iv) Servers.

**2. 100% FDI:** As per extant Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy, FDI up-to 100% under the automatic route is permitted for electronics manufacturing (except from countries sharing land border with India), subject to applicable laws/ regulations; security and other conditions.

**3. Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS):** The Scheme was notified on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2012 to provide financial incentives to offset disability and attract investments in the electronics manufacturing sector. It was amended in August, 2015 to extend the period of the scheme, enhance scope of the Scheme by including 15 more product verticals, and attract more investment. The scheme was further amended in January, 2017 to expedite the investments. The scheme provides subsidy for capital expenditure - 20% for investments in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and 25% in non-SEZs.

The incentives are available for 44 categories / verticals of electronic products and components covering entire electronics manufacturing value chain. The Scheme was open to receive applications till 31.12.2018 and is in the implementation mode.

**4. Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) Scheme:** Electronics Manufacturing Clusters Scheme was notified on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2012 to provide support for creation of world-class infrastructure along with common facilities and amenities for attracting investment. Under the Scheme, 20 Greenfield EMCs and 3 Common Facility Centres (CFCs) measuring an area of 3,565 acres with total project cost of INR 3,898 crore including Government Grant-in-Aid of INR 1,577 crore have been approved.

**5. Electronics Development Fund (EDF):** Electronics Development Fund (EDF) has been set up as a “Fund of Funds” to participate in professionally managed “Daughter Funds” which in turn will provide risk capital to startups and companies developing new technologies in the area of electronics and Information Technology (IT). This fund is expected to foster R&D and innovation in these technology sectors. INR 409 crore has been committed through EDF to 9 Daughter Funds with a targeted corpus of INR 2,626 crore.

**6. Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP)** has been notified to promote domestic value addition in mobile handsets and their sub-assemblies / parts manufacturing. As a result, India has rapidly started attracting investments into this sector and significant manufacturing capacities have been set up in the country. The manufacturing of mobile handsets has been steadily moving from Semi Knocked Down (SKD) to Completely Knocked Down (CKD) level, thereby progressively increasing the domestic value addition.

**7. Tariff Structure** has been rationalized to promote domestic manufacturing of electronic goods, including, *inter-alia*, Cellular mobile handsets, Televisions, Electronic components, Set Top Boxes for TV, LED products and Medical electronics equipment.

**8. Exemption from Basic Customs Duty on capital goods:** Notified capital goods for manufacture of specified electronic goods are permitted for import at “NIL” Basic Customs Duty.

**9. Simplified import of used plant and machinery:** The import of used plant and machinery having a residual life of at least 5 years for use by the electronics manufacturing industry has been simplified through the amendment of Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016, vide Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Notification dated 11.06.2018.

**10. Relaxing the ageing restriction:** The Department of Revenue vide Notification No.60/2018-Customs dated 11.09.2018 has amended the Notification No.158/95-Customs dated 14.11.1995, relaxing the ageing restriction from 3 years to 7 years for specified electronic goods manufactured in India and re-imported into India for repairs or reconditioning.

**11. Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order:** To encourage ‘Make in India’ and to promote manufacturing and production of goods and services in India with a view to enhancing income and employment, the Government has issued Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order 2017 vide the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Order dated 15.06.2017 and subsequent revisions vide Orders dated 28.05.2018, 29.05.2019 and 04.06.2020. In furtherance of the aforesaid Order, MeitY has notified 13 Electronic Products viz., Desktop PCs, Laptop PCs, Thin Clients, Tablet PCs, Computer Monitors, Dot Matrix Printers, Contact and Contactless Smart Cards, LED Products, Biometric Access Control / Authentication Devices, Biometric Finger Print Sensors, Biometric Iris Sensors and Servers vide Notification dated 07.09.2020.

**12. Compulsory Registration Order (CRO):** MeitY has notified “Electronics and Information Technology Goods (Requirement of Compulsory Registration) Order, 2012” for mandatory compliance to ensure safety of Indian citizens by curbing import of substandard and unsafe electronic goods into India. 63 Product Categories have been notified under the CRO and the order is applicable on 44 product categories.

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