

Name of Paper : THE POLITICAL AND BUSINESS DAILY

Published at : NEW DELHI

Dated : 22 MAR 2012

Only 154 SEZs are operational: Sharma

PBD BUREAU/PTI

NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

ONLY one-fourth, of 587 special economic zones (SEZs) approved by the Government to boost exports have become operational, Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma told the Rajya Sabha today.

He said during Question Hour that the government had approved 587 SEZs, of which 380 have been notified. The number of operational SEZs is 154 or 25.43 per cent of the approved spe-



Minister for Commerce & Industry, Anand Sharma meeting with John Bande, Minister of Industry, Malawi, in New Delhi on Wednesday —PBD photo by Amit Shrivastava

cial zones.

"If there are delays beyond permission, actions are taken," he said adding several requests have been received for denotification of SEZs in view of taxation issues and slowdown in target market.

As on December 31, 2011, an investment of Rs 249,631 crore has been made in SEZs, generating direct employment for over 8 lakh persons.

"SEZs account for 25 per cent of India's export earnings," Sharma said, adding SEZs were set up to encourage investment and exports.