

India committed to improve trade facilitation: FM

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The Centre is committed to improve trade facilitation for every stakeholder, including Customs department personnel and those involved in the trading communities, said Union Finance Minister Nirjala Sitharaman on Sunday.

Beyond construction of a new building, these days emphasis is also given on how energy-efficient the buildings would be so that there is no pollution or disturbance to anyone, Sitharaman said at the foundation stone-laying ceremony of new office complex 'Vaigai' at Customs House.

"There was a time when we thought that we have to build office space based on officers, staff and requirements. These days, it is also looking at how green our buildings are going to be, and how energy-effi-



cient these buildings will be," she said. "In trade facilitation, the country actually stands to benefit from and also to set standards on the way in which we have our Customs or tax officials and their workplaces."

Hailing that the proposed building being set up at a cost of ₹92 crore would accommodate 11 partnership agencies of Customs department, she said the building would set a standard in the way it is being constructed.