

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 8**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015**

**DUTY CREDIT SCRIPS UNDER SFIS/SEIS**

**\*8. SHRI P.C. MOHAN:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- a) whether all service providers are entitled to duty credit scrips under the Served From India Scheme (SFIS) or Service Exports From India Scheme (SEIS) and if so, the details thereof;
- b) whether the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has issued duty credit scrips under SFIS/SEIS to airline industry;
- c) if so, the details thereof and the amount of scrips issued along with their validity, airline-wise;
- d) whether DGFT is likely to extend the time limit for unutilised scrips and if so, the details thereof; and
- e) whether DGFT has permitted the utilisation of these scrips for payment of excise duty payable by these companies and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार )  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

a) to e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 8 FOR ANSWER ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015 REGARDING “  
DUTY CREDIT SCRIPS UNDER SFIS/SEIS”**

(a) : All service providers are not eligible for Served from India Scheme (SFIS) or under Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS).

(i) SFIS : All Service Providers of services as listed in Appendix 10 of Foreign Trade Policy were eligible for SFIS upto 31.12.2010. From 01.01.2011, Indian service providers of services listed in Appendix 41 of Foreign Trade Policy (2009-14) were eligible for SFIS. Only those service providers who had minimum earning in free foreign exchange of Rs.10 lakhs in a financial year were eligible for SFIS. In the case of Individual Service Providers minimum earning criteria in Free Foreign exchange was Rs. 5 lakhs.

(ii) SEIS : Under SEIS which was announced on 01.04.2015 under Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20), notified services under Appendix 3D, located in India, shall be rewarded, subject to conditions as may be notified. Only two modes of services (Mode 1 and Mode 2) are eligible, namely (i) supply of a 'service' from India to any other country (Mode 1) and (ii) supply of a 'service' from India to service consumer(s) of any other country in India (Mode 2). Such service provider should have minimum net free foreign exchange earnings of US\$15,000 in preceding financial year to be eligible for Duty Credit Scrip. For Individual Service Providers and sole proprietorship, such minimum net free foreign exchange earnings criteria would be US\$10,000 in preceding financial year.

(b) : Under SFIS, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has issued duty credit scrips. No scrips have been issued under SEIS.

(c) : The details of such scrip issued under Served from India Scheme (SFIS) and the amount is as under :

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S.No.	Name of Airline	Duty credit Scrip Amount (Rs. in crore)

1.	Air India	1083
2.	Jet Airways	693
3.	Kingfisher	30
4.	Go Airlines	4
5.	Indigo	3
6.	Spice Jet	23
Total		1836

Scripts issued upto 04.06.2012, were issued with validity of 24 months from the date of issue. From 05.06.2012, scripts were issued with validity of 18 months from the date of issue.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) SFIS Duty Credit Scripts are permitted to be utilised for payment of excise duty in terms of Department of Revenue (DoR) notification No. 34/2006-CE dated 14.06.2006.

SEIS Duty Credit Scripts can be used for payment of excise duties on domestic procurement of inputs on goods including capital goods as per DoR notification No. 21/2015-CE dated 08.04.2015.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 7  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015  
NATIONAL RUBBER POLICY

**7. DR. P. VENUGOPAL**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- a) whether an expert committee has been formed to formulate the National Rubber Policy;
- b) if so, the details thereof;
- c) whether the said committee is yet to come out with its policy and if so, the details thereof;
- d) whether the Government proposes to impose safeguard provisions as the rubber imports harm the domestic sector; and
- e) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार )  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

- (a) (b) & (c): The Government of India constituted an Expert Committee on 16 June 2014 mandated to examine issues related to rubber production, development, consumption and exports and suggest a National Policy on Rubber in the interest of both the growers as well as consumers. The Expert Committee consisted of experts and stakeholders of rubber industry including representatives of relevant Ministries and Departments of the Central Government, State Governments of Kerala and Tripura, Rubber Board, Associations of NR growers, Associations of rubber based industries including manufacturers of tyres, latex, block rubber, synthetic rubber and academic & research oriented institutions in the government and the non-governmental sector. The final draft of the Policy has been received from the Committee.
- (d) & (e) Import of NR has increased during the recent years. The main reasons for the increase in import are relatively low prices of NR, especially block rubber, in the world market; non-availability of the material in domestic market and irregular market arrivals. However, the Government has made following revisions in import policy of NR in order to protect growers:
- DGFT vide Public Notice No. 81 (RE-2013)/2009-2004 dated 9 January 2015 reduced the export obligation period to six months for NR from the date of clearance of each consignment under Advance Authorisation/DFIA Scheme.
  - Basic customs duty on dry forms of NR was raised from “20% or Rs 30 per kg whichever is lower” to “25% or Rs 30 a kg whichever is lower” vide Customs Notification No. 28/2015 dated 30 April 2015.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 17**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015**

**TRADE SHARE OF INDIA WITH BIMSTEC COUNTRIES**

**17. ADV. JOICE GEORGE:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- a) the trade share of India with Bay of Bengal initiative for Multispectral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) countries at present;
- b) whether Bimstec has accepted India's proposal to revise tariff cuts and if so, the details thereof; and
- c) whether the framework agreement on the Bimstec Free Trade Area signed in 2004 is operational and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार)  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

- (a) The trade share of India with the Bay of Bengal initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) countries i.e. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand for the financial year 2014-15 is as under:-

S. No	Country	2014-15			
		Export (in US \$ Millions)	% share (w.r.t. total export)	Import (in US \$ Millions)	% share (w.r.t. total import)
1	Bangladesh	6,451.47	2.08	621.37	0.14
2	Bhutan	333.94	0.11	149.87	0.03
3	Myanmar	773.24	0.25	1,231.54	0.27
4	Nepal	4,558.77	1.47	639.91	0.14
5	Sri Lanka	6,703.72	2.16	756.17	0.17
6	Thailand	3,464.83	1.12	5,865.88	1.31

Data source: DGCIS

(b) &(c) The Framework Agreement on BIMSTEC Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was signed in February 2004. The Framework Agreement includes provision for negotiation of FTA on goods, services, investment and economic cooperation amongst the member countries. The Member countries of BIMSTEC have constituted the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) to carry forward the negotiations in accordance with the Framework Agreement. So far 20 Rounds of negotiations have been held.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 23  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015

PROMOTION OF EXPORT

23. SHRI MALYADRI SRIRAM:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- a) whether the Government has taken any initiatives for promotion of export and also for the enhancement of the entire trade ecosystem; and
- b) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (ला सीतारमणश्रीमती निर्म)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार)  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) : Yes, Madam

- (b) :
1. The Government of India has notified Foreign Trade Policy (2015-2020) which came into force on 1.4.2015. Under the new FTP, two schemes namely Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS) and Service Export from India Scheme (SEIS) have been introduced with a view to promote exports in all sectors. Scrips and input imported under the schemes are freely transferrable. Details of the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020 are available at the website of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade at <http://dgft@gov.in>.
  2. Number of mandatory documents required for export and import have been reduced from 7 & 10 respectively to 3 each in the [FTP 2015-20](#). The saving in terms of cost and time associated with the dispensed documents would

improve Ease of Doing Business in India.

3. Facility of 24x7 Customs clearance for specified exports and imports has been made available in 18 sea ports and 17 air cargo complexes. This will help in faster clearance of such imported and export goods, reduce dwell time and lower the transaction cost.
4. Single Window Project - An electronic online message exchange facility has been established between Customs and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Department of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage (PQIS) at few ports.
5. Government has taken steps in creating a framework for making the States active partners in boosting exports by setting up a Council for Trade Development & Promotion which will help in ensuring a continuous dialogue with State Governments & UTs.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
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(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 24  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015

**TAX EXEMPTION ON EXPORT**

**24. SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- a) whether the export products originating from various States are subjected to a number of State indirect taxes/levies and add to the cost of export products thereby making them uncompetitive in the international market;
- b) if so, whether the Government has any mechanism to get the State levies exempted on exports;
- c) if so, the details thereof; and
- d) if not, the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार )  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

- (a) Yes, Madam.
- (b) to (d) Under Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20, there is no mechanism to get state levies exempted on exports. Indirect Taxes like Sales Tax/VAT are purely State matter as per Entry 54, List II (State List), Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Under Section 6(1) of the CST Act, 1956, exemption from payment of Central Sales Tax on sale of goods is provided for, which in accordance with the provision of section 5(3) of CST Act, 1956, is a sale in the course of export of goods out of the territory of India.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 29  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015

**BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENTS**

**29. SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- whether India has signed bilateral trade agreements with various countries recently;
- if so, the details and the salient features of these agreements;
- the details of bilateral agreements with countries which were signed during the last three years which did not materialize and the reasons therefor; and
- the measures taken by the Government to strengthen the bilateral trade relations with other countries?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (निर्मला सीतारमण श्रीमती)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार )  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a)&(b) India has not entered into any new Free Trade Agreement (FTA) or Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) during the last one year. However, India expanded the scope of the India-ASEAN Trade in Goods (TIG) Agreement on 09.09.2014 to cover both Services and Investment with its date of implementation as 01.07.2015.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There are appropriate institutional mechanisms such as Strategic Commercial Dialogue, Trade Policy Forum, Bilateral High Level Group, Annual Ministerial Dialogue etc established with partner countries to discuss and strengthen bilateral trade relations. Moreover, region specific initiatives such as “*Focus LAC*” for the Latin American region are also important in strengthening trade relation between partners in the region. With a view for closer trade integration, the government has also negotiated 11 free trade agreement (FTAs), 6 preferential trade agreements (PTAs) and is negotiating 19 trade agreements as given in the Annexure to this question.

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Annexure

**A. Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) already in force:**

SN	Name of the Agreement	Date of Signing of the Agreement	Date of Implementation of the Agreement
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1	India - Sri Lanka FTA	28th December, 1998	1 <sup>st</sup> March, 2000
2	Agreement on SAFTA (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives and Afghanistan)	4th January, 2004	1st January, 2006 <i>(Tariff concessions implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2006)</i>
3	Revised Agreement of Cooperation between Government of India and Nepal to control unauthorized trade	27 <sup>th</sup> October, 2009	27 <sup>th</sup> October, 2009
4	India - Bhutan Agreement on Trade Commerce and Transit	17 <sup>th</sup> January, 1972	Renewed periodically, with mutually agreed modifications.
5	India - Thailand FTA - Early Harvest Scheme (EHS)	9 <sup>th</sup> October, 2003.	1 <sup>st</sup> September, 2004
6	India - Singapore CECA	29th June, 2005	1st August, 2005
7	India - ASEAN- CECA - Trade in Goods Agreement (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam)	13 <sup>th</sup> August, 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1st January 2010 in respect of India and Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand.</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010 in respect of India and Vietnam.</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 in respect of India and Myanmar.</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 in respect of India and Indonesia.</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010 in respect of India and Brunei.</li> <li>• 24 January 2011 in respect of India and Laos.</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011 in respect of India and the Philippines.</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2011 in respect of India and Cambodia.</li> </ul>
8	India - South Korea CEPA	7 <sup>th</sup> August 2009	1 <sup>st</sup> January, 2010
9	India - Japan CEPA	16 <sup>th</sup> February, 2011	1 <sup>st</sup> August, 2011
10	India - Malaysia CECA	18 <sup>th</sup> February, 2011	1 <sup>st</sup> July, 2011
11	India-ASEAN Services and Investment Agreement (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam)	9 <sup>th</sup> September, 2014	1 <sup>st</sup> July, 2015

**B. Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) already in force:**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Agreement</b>	<b>Date of Signing of the Agreement</b>	<b>Date of Implementation of the Agreement</b>
1	Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) (Bangladesh, China, India, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka)	July, 1975 (revised on 2 <sup>nd</sup> November, 2005)	1st Nov,1976
2	Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) (Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe)	13 <sup>th</sup> April, 1988	19 <sup>th</sup> April,1989
3	SAARC Preferential Trading Agreement (SAPTA)	11 April, 1993	7 December,1995
4	India - Afghanistan	6th March, 2003	13 <sup>th</sup> May,2003
5	India - MERCOSUR	25th January, 2004	1st June, 2009
6	India - Chile	8 <sup>th</sup> March, 2006	11 <sup>th</sup> September, 2007

**C. FTAs/PTAs under Negotiation:**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Agreement</b>	<b>Status</b>
1	India - EU BTIA (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom)	<p>Negotiations launched on 28th June 2007 in the areas of Goods, Services, Investment, Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Trade Facilitation and Customs Cooperation, Competition, IPR &amp; GIs. etc</p> <p>Fifteen rounds of negotiations and a number of inter-sessional and Chief Negotiator level meetings have been held till date. A Ministerial review meeting between Hon'ble Commerce &amp; Industry Minister and EU's Trade Commissioner was held on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 at Brussels.</p> <p>After a period of lull, both sides began re-engagement from October, 2014 onwards. The negotiations are still ongoing and an impact assessment can be made only they are concluded.</p>
2	India – Sri Lanka CEPA	<p>FTA in goods implemented from March 2000.</p> <p>A JSG was set up in April, 2003 to widen the ambit of ISLFTA to go beyond Trade in Goods to include Services and to facilitate greater investment flows between the two countries. Based on the recommendation and conclusion of the JSG, negotiations for a CEPA were started in February, 2005. No discussion is currently taking place on India-Sri Lanka CEPA.</p>
3	India - Thailand CECA	<p>Early Harvest Scheme on 82 items implemented. So far 29<sup>th</sup> rounds of India-Thailand Trade Negotiation committee (ITTNC) meetings have been held. The 29<sup>th</sup> round was held in Bangkok in June 2015.</p>
4	India - Mauritius CECPA	<p>Ten rounds of negotiations on India-Mauritius CECPA have been held between the two sides so far. The last round of negotiation was held between India and Mauritius on 23–24 October, 2006. However, CECPA negotiations have been formally put on hold.</p>
5	India EFTA TEPA (Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland)	<p>The India-EFTA TEPA (Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement) was launched in January 2008 (then known as BTIA). The first round was held in New Delhi during 6-8 October, 2008. The Chapters covered are Trade in Goods, Services, Investment, Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Measures (SPS), Technical Barriers to Trade(TBT), Trade Facilitation and Customs Cooperation, Competition, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), Government Procurement (GP), Dispute Settlement(DS), Trade Defence(TD), Rules of origin(ROO), Sustainable Development (SD) and Legal &amp; Horizontal etc. 13 rounds of negotiations have been held with the 13<sup>th</sup> and final round</p>

		being held on 25-29 <sup>th</sup> November, 2013. Legal vetting has been completed in most of the texts with only some residual work remaining. There are few pending issues on both sides such as TRIPS Plus and Data Adequacy/Data Security status.
6	India - New Zealand FTA/CECA	Ten Rounds of negotiation of CECA have been held so far. The 10 <sup>th</sup> Round was held in New Delhi on 17-18 February, 2015.
7	India – Israel FTA	Eight rounds of negotiations on India-Israel FTA have been held so far. The Eighth round was held in Israel from 24-26 November, 2013.
8	India - Singapore CECA	Second review of India-Singapore CECA was launched in May, 2010. During the visit of Minister of Commerce & Industry on 15-16 May, 2013 to Singapore, it was decided to constitute a Joint Working Group of Reserve Bank of India and Monetary Authority of Singapore to resolve the issue of Asset Maintenance Requirements in a time bound manner to conclude the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Review on the issue of Employee Provident Fund.
9	India - SACU PTA (South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Namibia)	Five rounds of negotiations have been held so far. 1 <sup>st</sup> Round of negotiation was held in Pretoria on October 5-6 <sup>th</sup> , 2007 and the 5 <sup>th</sup> round of negotiations held in October 2010 in New Delhi. During the 9 <sup>th</sup> Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) meeting held at Durban on 19 <sup>th</sup> March, 2015 under the co-chairmanship of Honorable Minister of External Affairs and South Africa's Foreign Minister, while discussing pending negotiations on finalization of INDIA-SACU PTA, the Indian side requested the South African side for assistance in holding the 6 <sup>th</sup> round of negotiations.
10	India - Mercosur PTA (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay)	The two issues currently under discussion on the India-Mercosur PTA are the expansion in coverage and inclusion of Venezuela in the PTA.
11	India – Chile PTA	With the objective of gaining optimal benefits and boosting bilateral trade between the two countries, the expansion of India-Chile PTA is being processed for Cabinet approval.
12	BIMSTEC CECA (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal)	20 meetings of the Trade Negotiation Committee (TNC) have taken place. The 20th Meeting of BIMSTEC Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) was held during 07-09, September 2015 in Khon Kaen, Thailand.
13	India - Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Framework Agreement (Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and United Arab Emirates)	Two rounds of negotiations have been held so far in 2006 and 2008. The second round was held in September 9-10, 2008. No round could take place in the last 6 years since GCC has deferred its negotiations with all countries and economic groups and is currently reviewing its negotiations with all countries and economic groups.
14	India – Canada FTA	Eight rounds of negotiation on India-Canada CEPA have been held so far. The Eighth round was held in Ottawa,

		Canada from 24 <sup>th</sup> to 26 <sup>th</sup> June, 2013.
15	India - Indonesia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)	Commencement of negotiation on Indonesia - India CECA was announced on 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2011 during the visit of Indonesian President to New Delhi. Negotiations are yet to commence. The first meeting pre-negotiation and Biennial Trade and Investment Forum (BTIF) took place in Jakarta on October 3-4, 2011. Negotiation has been kept in abeyance watching progress of RCEP.
16	India - Australia	Nine rounds of negotiations have been held so far. The ninth round of negotiations was held on 21-23 September 2015, in New Delhi, India.
17.	India-Malaysia CECA (1 <sup>st</sup> Review)	1 <sup>st</sup> meeting of the India-Malaysia Joint Committee meeting to review implementation of the Agreement was held on 8 <sup>th</sup> December, 2014.
18	Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement among ASEAN + 6 FTA Partners (Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand)	Based on the Declaration of the Leaders during the ASEAN Summit in November, 2012, negotiations for a comprehensive economic partnership between the 10 ASEAN member states and its 6 FTA partners commenced in May, 2013. Ten rounds of negotiations have been held so far. The 10 <sup>th</sup> round was held from 8-16 October, 2015 in Busan, Korea. The negotiations cover a number of areas like trade in goods, services, investment, intellectual property, economic & technical cooperation, competition and legal & institutional issues.
19	India-ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) (1 <sup>st</sup> Review)	The ASEAN Secretariat has agreed to the 1 <sup>st</sup> review of India-ASEAN trade in Goods Agreement in the coming months. The dates would be finalized as per mutual consultations.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 35  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015

EXPORT OF RICE

35(H). SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- whether rice has been exported from the country during the last three years and the current year;
- if so, the total quantum and value of rice exported from the country during the period, item/year/country-wise along with the foreign exchange earned therefrom;
- whether the Government has taken or proposes to take steps for exporting other categories of rice also other than Basmati rice; and
- if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार)  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a & b) Yes, Madam. The details of export of rice, for Basmati as well as Non-basmati, in terms of quantity and value during last three years and the current year, are as under. Country wise data for export of rice is at **Annexure –I**.

Quantity in Ton; Value in US \$ Million

Year	Basmati		Other than basmati		Total Rice	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
2012-13	3459829	3564.04	6687851	2651.97	10147680	6216.01
2013-14	3754102	4864.89	7136191	2925.16	10890293	7790.05
2014-15	3698927	4516.28	8278233	3336.84	11977160	7853.12
2015-16 (Apr to Sep)*	2084170	1916.67	3442609	1254.64	5526779	3171.31

Source: DGCI&S

\* Provisional

(c & d) As per Foreign Trade Policy, the export of non-Basmati rice is permitted freely from privately held stocks.

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**Annexure – I**

Country-wise export of rice during last three years and current year.

Quantity in Ton; Value in US \$ Million

COUNTRY	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
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							<b>(Apr to Sep)*</b>	
	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Value</b>
SAUDI ARABIA	824366	752.67	965536	1195.43	1148997	1294.19	598001	527.16
IRAN	1120412	1210.56	1532120	1918.60	1004718	1167.87	361474	319.17
BANGLADESH	31435	15.52	661096	251.23	1269161	451.11	194406	63.42
UAE	496715	380.10	373430	313.56	519758	439.93	415537	313.52
SRI LANKA	4340	2.70	6115	3.78	667414	293.30	39369	16.93
IRAQ	218215	204.85	236358	283.44	275752	284.51	253015	213.55
KUWAIT	203466	217.37	202801	265.68	199754	270.83	122779	141.80
BENIN	577616	240.93	1169040	488.00	601688	250.86	356282	125.44
YEMEN REPUBLIC	227809	189.14	211507	223.33	253172	243.68	87770	57.05
SENEGAL	854598	267.93	652021	195.79	765515	226.60	500827	135.35
OTHER COUNTRIES	5588708	2734.23	4880269	2651.21	5271231	2930.24	2597319	1257.91
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>10147680</b>	<b>6216.01</b>	<b>10890293</b>	<b>7790.05</b>	<b>11977160</b>	<b>7853.12</b>	<b>5526779</b>	<b>3171.31</b>

Source: DGCI&S \* Provisional.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 51**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015**

**MERCHANDISE EXPORT**

**51. SHRI M.B. RAJESH:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- a) the details of merchandise exports during the last three years and the current year, item and country-wise; and
- b) whether there is any decline in export of major items and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with its impact on the Indian economy?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार )  
**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**  
**(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)**  
**(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)**

- (a) Total merchandise exports during the last years and current year is given below.

(US\$ Billion)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2014-15 (April- October)	2015-16 (April- October) (Provisional)
Export	300.4	314.4	310.3	187.29	154.3
% Growth	-1.8	4.7	-1.3	.....	-17.6

Source: DGCI&S

The value of exports country, commodity/sector-wise are available in the DGCI&S publication in CD form namely 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India' Vol. I (Exports). Such CD's are regularly sent to Parliament Library by DGCI&S, Kolkata.

- (b) During the period exports as % share of GDP are 16.4%,16.8% and 15.1% respectively. In value terms, the merchandise trade deficit has decreased from US\$ 86.27 Billion in Apr-Oct 2014 to US\$ 77.76 Billion for the same period in 2015. The major sectors which are showing fall are PETROLEUM PRODUCTS,TELECOM INSTRUMENTS ,PLASTIC RAW MATERIALS,ORGANIC CHEMICALS, BULK MINERALS AND ORES SILVER, INORGANIC CHEMICALS,CONSUMER ELECTRONICS ,PULSES,PROJECT GOODS FRESH FRUITS,DYE INTERMEDIATES,RAILWY TRNSPRT EQUIPMNTS, PRTS OTHER CRUDE MINERALS,SURGICALS,TIN AND PRODUCTS MADE OF TIN, BOOKS, PUBLICATIONS AND PRNTNG.

The main reasons for the fall in exports are,

- (i) The major global slowdown during 2014 and 2015 which has impacted Global Trade and India's Trade adversely.
- (ii) World Economic Outlook forecasts for import has been revised specially from emerging markets and developing economies from 3.5% to 1.3% for the year 2015.
- (iii) Moderate but uncertain recovery in the US Economy.
- (iv) The significant

slowdown includes the Chinese Economy (v) Sharp fall in Crude and Petroleum product prices,(Brent crude declining from about USD 98 per barrel last year to USD 47.57 at present).(vi) fall in other commodity prices (Gold prices fell by 7.2 % high grade copper by about 26% in last one year (vii) Currency Fluctuations

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 59**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015**

**IMPORT DUTY ON PULSES**

**59. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- the details of pulses imported into the country during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and country-wise;
- whether the Government is imposing import duty on pulses; and
- whether the Government has any plan to reduce import duty of pulses in near future and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (निर्मला सीतारमण श्रीमती)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार )  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

- The details of pulses imported into the country during the last three years and the current year is as below. Country-wise details of pulses imported, is annexed.

**Import of Pulses during last three years and current year (up to September 2015)**

YEAR	QTY(MT)	Val(US \$ in Million)
2012-13	4013236	2450
2013-14	3643705	2119
2014-15	4584843	2786
2015-16(Apr to Sep)	2237089	1612

- No, Madam.

- Question does not arise, in view of (b) above.

Country-wise import of pulses during last three years and current year (up to September 2015)

**:QTY IN TON****:VALUES IN US \$**

Country	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16(Apr to Sep)	
	QTY	VAL	QTY	VAL	QTY	VAL	QTY	VAL
AFGHANISTAN	12938	8613573	12447	9320538	4355	4667269	442	404089
ARGENTINA	39600	23541894	4665	4170287	9056	6500473	15296	12409875
AUSTRALIA	721044	486272230	342311	189522746	332655	188412686	223551	157976112
AUSTRIA	24	24250						
BENIN							37	36582
BRAZIL	26695	21187005	6853	4767320	603	567866	3199	1852516
BULGARIA	49	57245						
CANADA	1107459	552084848	1504717	758718752	2195554	1074572673	930638	512202445
CHINA P RP	65584	84389930	49519	72561654	71106	72343632	41300	33769793
COSTA RICA					110	132637		
COTE D' IVOIRE	23	21504	18	16964	20	22308	115	128912
DJIBOUTI	210	162129					96	61356
EGYPT A RP			88	82630			327	177256
ETHIOPIA	29736	24943525	17355	13915483	31028	26361456	26248	17034719
FRANCE	127498	53573478	23275	9003268			52252	17772501
INDONESIA	13255	10992264	42	37154	2661	3260951		
IRAN	115	103425	120	117982	24	27094	1274	825906
IRAQ	1376	1204742						
ITALY	120	154651	12	9600				
KAZAKHSTAN			386	248691			3537	1923743
KENYA	15429	13099730	36141	30810990	18083	17115023	17023	18000236
KOREA RP			0	55				
KYRGHYZSTAN	24	36093	135	170018	284	388798	356	475698
MADAGASCAR	15028	11053699	5330	3566394	1917	1843912	1752	2049434
MALAWI	65745	38056692	22428	13732913	46015	33423679	14077	13129459
MALAYSIA	670	604125	1008	778677	312	313534	24	29252
MEXICO	10848	14359507	910	1104458	8190	8918891	5079	3356636

MOLDOVA					2317	877073	202	74338
MOZAMBIQUE	77108	46123515	78904	47900249	97068	70415213	26782	25487572
MYANMAR	963649	649126912	906484	621207608	931330	802997303	552838	602581031
NEPAL	57	49973	30	27419	1047	1298891		
NEW ZEALAND	435	287083						
NICARAGUA			44	38650				
PAKISTAN IR	856	641417	3116	2377072	2689	2406764	144	142308
PERU	739	857272	428	441035				
POLAND							66	104265
PORTUGAL			70	84323				
ROMANIA			100	37843				
RUSSIA	324858	168719917	215619	90327419	236894	103162894	180640	87943702
SINGAPORE	48	35021	239	138515	72	76483		
SOMALIA			197	179368				
SOUTH AFRICA			22	33845	48	56185	45	23600
SRI LANKA DSR			529	277978	738	633828	43	47129
SUDAN	563	412338			17088	12565043	13209	13767142
TAIWAN	72	95582						
TANZANIA REP	146206	100304653	181495	110169409	179993	138827162	37906	37476576
THAILAND	1792	1695073	352	265125	1157	1344921	191	247617
TURKEY	3082	1554844	221	150859	2370	1077131	743	469536
U ARAB EMTS	66	59710	216	241644	167	122671	24	25091
U S A	178275	102104684	195846	112442916	312227	168376471	68884	41714086
UGANDA	390	334331	614	517936	3008	2517315	1467	1214775
UKRAINE	48535	21094298	20314	8538971	62069	25404999	16838	6477043
UNSPECIFIED	82	99356	74	62450				
UZBEKISTAN	12953	11855612	10892	11123372	12473	14991358	444	415223
VATICAN CITY			139	79503				
YEMEN REPubLC					115	81597		
Grand Total	4013236	2.45E+09	3643705	2119320083	4584843	2786106184	2237089	1611827554

Note: Figures for 2015-16(Apr to Sep) is provisional.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 69**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015**

**BAN ON IMPORT OF STEEL**

**69(H). SHRI NANA PATOLE:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- a) whether indigenous Steel manufacturers have requested the Government to impose a ban on poor quality of Steel imported from China and Korea;
- b) if so, the details thereof along with total quantum of Steel imported and the expenditure incurred thereon;
- c) the total loss suffered from the import of poor quality of Steel and the measures taken by the Government to provide good quality of Steel to the domestic Steel manufacturers; and
- d) whether any decision has been taken by the Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार)  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

- (a) & (b): Indigenous steel manufacturers and their associations have requested the Government to notify several steel products, having direct bearing on human health and / or critical to safety and security of construction, housing and infrastructure, under the Mandatory Quality Certification Mark Scheme of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to prohibit import of sub – standard steel products. Import of steel during the last three years and the current year is tabulated as below. Country-wise data (China and Korea) is annexed as at Annexure I and II.

**Import of Iron and Steel (Ch-72) of ITC(HS) from China and Korea and the rest of the world**

**Quantity in Ton / Value in Million USD**

COUNTRY	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16 (Apr. to Sept.)	
	qty	val	qty	val	qty	val	qty	val
CHINA P RP	1770193	1495.33	1120649	976.29	3756649	2713.35	1842450	1116.16
KOREA RP	1858259	1744.12	1539746	1414.33	2240827	1818.87	1684414	1002.66
Others	14819136	10376.08	8920721	6719.23	10653873	7809.81	6332018	3787.27



Grand total	18447588	13615.53	11581116	9109.85	16651349	12342.03	9858881	5906.09
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Note: Figures for 2015-16(Apr. to Sep.) is provisional.

(c) & (d): The Government does not maintain import data based on the quality of Steel. The Government reviews the data on import of steel including import of seconds and defective quality steel from time to time and takes necessary measures to make quality steel available to the consumers. The Government has already issued two Steel and Steel Products (Quality Control) Orders in March, 2012 thereby notifying 16 steel products under the Mandatory Quality Certification Mark Scheme of Bureau of Indian Standards. Notifications of steel products under this scheme to protect interests of the domestic steel producers & consumers are taken as per need.

Further, the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance vide its Notification No.28/2015 - Customs (ADD) dated 05.06.2015 has imposed anti – dumping duty on import of Hot Rolled Flat Products of Stainless Steel of 304 Grade from China, Korea RP and Malaysia.

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Annexure-I

Import of Iron and Steel from CHINA during last three years and current year (up to September 2015)

:QTY in KG

:Values in US \$

itchs	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16(Apr to September)	
	qty	val	qty	val	qty	val	qty	val
7201	13653	17253			110	98		
7202	32273796	58806337	24067737	46079716	35696848	87773500	17373731	33002691
7203	1055	618			80	97		
7204	1573362	1100108	1387239	505226	701854	599133	198000	100521
7205	5412922	7668592	4913743	6893981	5774410	8687315	3933992	4049366
7206	29725	23306	29233	41075	23868	24468	1141	1896
7207	588758	594031	590163	1097859	11755537	6187167	756280	733552
7208	118008093	81589574	105517320	62901555	258502264	150696929	125703726	57763716
7209	235686052	159545617	27422963	20092602	191739695	120634786	65592317	32496262
7210	107154027	86104044	93883866	71609832	257026394	186559484	299201639	176483409
7211	2539962	3778215	2309889	3113954	2442429	3111194	1144255	1283811
7212	9015750	9382243	8975195	10206698	9271327	10899749	5988287	7289722
7213	7998999	5915690	5609145	3332273	17264468	9803137	7339081	3396884
7214	4297906	3461373	3122863	2496867	4624961	3621179	2835042	2076857
7215	1401796	2275452	707163	1036164	766278	894071	566158	473470
7216	1231147	1444762	1215938	1157152	1416568	1052127	2232499	1569096
7217	67098210	69548307	55870102	59060099	86384868	82620375	58061492	49231691
7218	1421826	3072639	1779377	3168578	1907345	3119783	55928	160297
7219	65900459	164526281	51907799	108482337	95987538	218594454	46336612	95864344
7220	24844282	40853130	59857337	92970631	135614967	192622909	77926568	98180299
7221	1636702	4791039	4686913	11283302	8144588	19125634	774810	1768146
7222	2122692	4576137	4551907	8784689	4023080	9403579	1227794	1985138
7223	1514446	2725320	791665	1943727	1730579	3505178	1340969	2212001
7224	96818533	68692817	19793706	14664034	140726526	83709650	62237638	28521684

7225	716180500	475447501	413198680	248625155	1280696644	803883528	511078027	248703099
7226	11252373	13541771	1785490	3711397	2309096	4572635	3194520	2789829
7227	169750065	116706168	116352223	72541768	769754175	409368455	400779423	171572573
7228	61487263	80549560	88647516	94520200	420025248	275567127	143037876	89618239
7229	22938385	28594200	21674233	25971300	12337623	16714243	3531926	4831023
Total	1770192739	1495332085	1120649405	976292171	3756649368	2713351984	1842449731	1116159616

Note: Figures for 2015-16(Apr to Sep) is provisional.

Annexure- II

Import of Iron and Steel from **KOREA** during last three years and current year (up to September2015)

**:QTY in KG**

**:Values in US \$**

itchs	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16(Apr to September)	
	qty	val	qty	val	qty	val	qty	val
7201			6625	3419				
7202	10235902	28334081	14621987	33233082	19514428	42146332	13518791	23895276
7203	550	1071						
7204	31298259	46458695	27610627	38414591	55405350	71239500	61096235	56921545
7205	518005	377320	384500	321095	454000	341455	332000	228907
7206	1058722	919651	48000	146600				
7207	88197441	47509250	5663673	4350637	42449442	20679463	33589338	12344675
7208	638708285	461413668	297605615	207134379	880120854	526921621	1015804654	443057432
7209	552785748	457701243	578857641	434020699	584204719	424037006	218344362	126829869
7210	225855504	282949132	250993190	284624115	269200167	304513892	134616636	141612352
7211	2184419	3520354	2000282	3716592	3127505	5221565	3551038	5014477
7212	8963418	14003843	7191312	9096843	4978129	7539386	2432399	4107230
7213	4775333	4597662	4690600	3729163	19090952	12857771	13061284	7661931
7214	5135032	5247603	7030300	6686022	3080729	2914432	3572638	3261503
7215	2139832	3478713	1370331	2171755	1393640	1632280	771662	759375
7216	1869219	1661314	1608184	1267317	246235	206071	134102	131767
7217	5686898	8379515	5880380	8361529	4018692	6013036	2738056	3418653
7218	103012	347925	4448	29696	1970	20347		
7219	45809292	87998714	39531984	65468058	37980469	62732002	15262271	25026286
7220	4429540	14527709	13423901	17634041	3458758	9373718	1974031	5128706
7221	31036	152699	282271	672655	959658	2553992	4515	19758
7222	105385	218629	181593	244628	163479	277318	154305	376306
7223	686242	3107325	679835	3094895	502824	2370354	337917	1591737
7224	1033560	845419	3706160	1769544	16236000	7205032		
7225	173383877	204773778	239345966	241274126	239578373	244592865	142494827	117943954
7226	2629606	3993070	2638670	4563498	3925883	7097862	1922468	3287939
7227	30769753	29346628	18655671	17528413	30775877	26872069	10055318	8129910
7228	12739793	20017000	10895537	16198232	13920678	18757829	6362584	8019557
7229	7124856	12235463	4836509	8571543	6038130	10755045	2282384	3892732
Total	1858258519	1744117474	1539745792	1414327167	2240826941	1818872243	1684413815	1002661877

Note: Figures for 2015-16(Apr to Sep) is provisional.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 70**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015**  
**IMPORT OF RICE FROM CHINA**

**70. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:**  
**SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- whether the rice made out of plastic has been imported into the country from China during the last three years and the current year and if so, the details thereof;
- whether the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has given clearance to import of such rice into the country;
- if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- whether the Government has conducted any enquiry to fix the responsibility of the concerned officials in import of such rice; and
- if so, the details and outcome thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to restrict import of such rice into the country?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार)  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) to (c) No, Madam. Whether 'rice made out of plastic' is an agriculture product- say a variety of rice, is itself unclear. As such there is no Exim Code for 'Plastic Rice' in Indian Trade Classification (Harmonised System), 2012, Schedule – I (Import Policy) and no such import of 'plastic rice' has been permitted .

Import of rice is allowed through Food Corporation of India (FCI), as per India's Import Policy under Chapter 10 of ITC (HS), 2012, Schedule – I (Import Policy). Further, Import of rice is subject to clearance by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). As per the data available in Food Import Clearance System (FICS) of FSSAI, no import of rice made out of plastic has taken place from Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Cochin, and Tuticorin where FSSAI is present.

(d) : On the basis of alert from International Network of Food Safety Authorities (INFOSAN), FSSAI had taken up the issue with the State Governments of Kerala and Gujarat and these States have confirmed that no incidence of imported plastic rice has been reported in the respective States.

(e) : In light of part (d) above, question does not arise.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 81**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015**  
**SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES**

**81. SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA:**

**SHRI ABHIJIT MUKHERJEE:**

**SHRI P.K. BIJU:**

**SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN:**

**SHRI INNOCENT:**

**SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- the details of functional/nonfunctional Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country at present, State/UT-wise and the target fixed for employment generation in SEZs along with the achievements thereof;
- whether the Government proposes to set up new SEZs in the country and if so, the details and the present status thereof, State/UT-wise including West Bengal;
- the details of the proposals received and approved by the Government in this regard including those which have been rejected along with the reasons therefor during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise including Karnataka;
- whether the functional SEZs have not been able to achieve Net Foreign Exchange earnings and if so, the reasons for the decline in the growth of SEZs; and
- whether the Government proposes to review the functioning and performance of SEZs in the country and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the functioning of SEZs?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार )  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a): In addition to Seven Central Government Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and 11 State/Private Sector SEZs set-up prior to the enactment of the SEZ Act, 2005, approval has been accorded to 411 proposals for setting up of SEZs, out of which 327 SEZs have been notified as on date. Presently, a total of 204 SEZs are exporting. A statement showing State/UT-wise details of operational/non-operational SEZs is at **Annexure-I**. Further, no employment generation target is fixed for SEZs. As on 30.06.2015, a total of 15,04,597 persons have been provided employment in SEZs.

(b) and (c): Proposals for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are approved by the Board of Approval (BoA) on recommendations of the relevant State Government.

Approval of SEZs is an on-going process as they are created under the provisions of the SEZs Act, 2005. Currently, there is no new proposal for setting up of SEZ in the State of West Bengal. During the last three years and current year, BoA has approved 19 proposals including 2 proposals in the State of Karnataka for setting up of SEZs. State/UT-wise list of SEZs approved by Board of Approval during the last three years and the current year is at **Annexure-II**. No proposal has been rejected during this period.

(d): As per the provisions of the SEZs Act, 2005 and Rules framed thereunder, a SEZ Developer is not required to achieve Net Foreign Exchange earnings. However, the SEZ units are under an obligation to achieve positive Net Foreign Exchange (NFE) earnings to be calculated cumulatively for a period of 5 years from the commencement of production, failing which the units shall be liable for penal action under the provisions of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.

(e): Review of functioning of SEZs is an on-going process and on the basis of inputs/suggestions received from stakeholders on the policy and operational framework of the SEZ Scheme, periodically reviews the policy and operational framework of SEZs and takes necessary measures so as to facilitate speedy and effective implementation of SEZ Scheme. The Government has notified SEZ Rules (Amendment), 2015 vide G.S.R. 5(E) dated 02.01.2015 allowing dual utilization of facilities in Non-Processing Area (NPA) of SEZs by both SEZ and non-SEZ entities. Besides, timelines for disposal of various approvals of Developers and Units have been introduced in all SEZ Zones.

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**Annexure-I to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 81 for 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2015**

<b>States/UTs</b>	<b>Operational SEZs</b>	<b>Non-operational SEZs</b>
Andhra Pradesh	19	12
Chandigarh	2	0
Chhattisgarh	1	1
Delhi	0	2
Goa	0	7
Gujarat	18	16
Haryana	7	15
Jharkhand	0	1
Karnataka	26	33
Kerala	16	14
Madhya Pradesh	2	11
Maharashtra	25	35
Manipur	0	1
Nagaland	0	2
Odisha	2	6
Puducherry	0	1
Punjab	2	2
Rajasthan	4	6
Tamil Nadu	36	17
Telangana	26	22
Uttar Pradesh	11	13
West Bengal	7	8
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>225</b>

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<b>List of State wise SEZs approved by Board of Approval during the last three years and current year (upto 30.11.2015)</b>	
<b>States</b>	<b>Number of Approvals granted</b>
Andhra Pradesh	1
Gujarat	2
Karnataka	2
Kerala	1
Maharashtra	4
Manipur	1
Madhya Pradesh	1
Uttar Pradesh	2
Tamil Nadu	3
Telangana	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 96  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015

**PRODUCTION AND IMPORT OF RUBBER**

**96. PROF. K.V. THOMAS:**

**SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:**

**SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI:**

**DR. P. VENUGOPAL:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- the total quantum of natural rubber produced and imported in the country during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;
- whether there is a consistent drop in the production of natural rubber during the said period and if so, the details thereof, year-wise along with the reasons therefor;
- whether a new rubber policy has been formulated by the Government and if so, the details thereof and the extent to which it is likely to help rubber growers in the country; and
- the steps taken by the Government to boost rubber production in the country and address the problems faced by rubber growers?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार )  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

- The production and import of rubber in the country during the last three years and current year is as under:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Production (tonnes)</i>	<i>Import (tonnes)</i>
2012-13	913700	262753
2013-14	774000	360263
2014-15	645000	442130
2015-16 (April-October)	329000	252587

- (b) Domestic production of NR in 2013-14 was low due to adverse weather conditions, incidence of leaf diseases and low rubber prices. NR production in 2014-15 and current year is low mainly due to low rubber prices.
- (c) The Government of India constituted an Expert Committee on 16 June 2014 to examine issues related to rubber production, development, consumption and exports and suggest a National Policy on Rubber in the interest of both the growers as well as consumers. The Expert Committee consisted of experts and stakeholders of rubber industry including representatives of relevant Ministries and Departments of the Central Government, State Governments of Kerala and Tripura, Rubber Board, Associations of NR growers, Associations of rubber based industries including manufacturers of tyres, latex, block rubber, synthetic rubber and academic & research oriented institutions in the government and the non-governmental sector. The final draft of the Policy has been received from the Committee.
- (d) Several programmes covering research, extension and provision of financial assistance are being implemented during 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan to increase rubber production through new planting, replanting of uneconomic plantations and productivity enhancement. The scale of financial assistance for new planting and replanting is as follows:-

<i>Region</i>	<i>Planting subsidy in 12<sup>th</sup> Plan</i>
Traditional region	Rs. 25,000 per ha
Non-traditional region other than NE	Rs.35,000 per ha (planting subsidy - Rs.30000, reimbursement of cost of planting material- Rs.5000)
NE region	Rs.35,000 per ha (planting subsidy - Rs.30000, reimbursement of cost of planting material- Rs.5000)

Other steps taken to regulate import and promote export of NR are the following.

- DGFT reduced the export obligation period to six months for NR from the date of clearance of each consignment under Advance Authorisation/DFIA Schemes in January 2015.
- Import duty on dry forms of NR was raised from “20% or Rs 30 per kg whichever is lower” to “25% or Rs 30 a kg whichever is lower” with effect from 30 April 2015.
- Added RSS (Ribbed Smoked Sheet) and TSR (Technically Specified Rubber) is included in Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS) which makes them eligible for an incentive at the rate of two per cent for exports vide DGFT Public Notice No. 44/2015-20 dtd. 29 October 2015.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 100  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015

**SETTING UP OF TURMERIC BOARD**

**100. SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- a) whether the Government has any proposal to establish a Turmeric Board on the lines of Spices Board and Coffee Board for the promotion of trading of turmeric in the country;
- b) if so, details and the present status thereof;
- c) whether the proposed Turmeric Board is likely to be established in Tamil Nadu as it is one of the State where turmeric trading is well established and the use of Turmeric is connected with the tradition of the people of the State; and
- d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार )  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) & (b): Spices Board of India is mandated to promote export of fifty two notified spices including turmeric and implements programmes for marketing, post-harvest improvement and export of spices.

Government has established Spice Development Agencies in various parts of the country including Erode in Tamil Nadu for boosting development and export of spices at regional level. Spice Development Agency at Erode, Tamil Nadu has the responsibility of coordinating programmes implemented by various Central and State agencies in the region for production, development and export of spices including turmeric.

(b) & (d): Does not arise.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 102**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015**

**PROBLEMS OF TOBACCO GROWERS**

**102. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- a) whether the Government has received a number of representations from the organizations of tobacco growers including public representatives in 2015 highlighting their problems;
- b) if so, the details thereof; and
- c) the action taken by the Government to solve their problems?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार )  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) & (b) The Department of Commerce has received few representations/references from the organization of tobacco growers like Virginia Tobacco Farmers Associations, Andhra Pradesh , The A.P. Tobacco Growers Co-Op. Union Ltd., A.P . etc. and few public representatives regarding marketing of Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco in the State of Andhra Pradesh during crop season 2014-15. The crisis took place due to surplus global production including in India, subdued demand of FCV tobacco in the domestic & international markets, greater turnout of low and medium variety of Indian crop due to bad weather, onslaught of tobacco root parasite, Orabanche.

(c) The Government of India has taken various measures to address this crisis:

(i) **Compensation scheme:** To ameliorate the acute distress conditions of the registered growers of the Tobacco Board in the Andhra Pradesh Auctions during 2015, the Department of Commerce, Government of India provided financial relief , as a one-time measure & as a special case, to registered growers of FCV tobacco of identified low grade varieties viz. dark greens (F9/NDG variety) and Thin bodied perished leaf (F10) and NOG (BX 2) variety. The compensation was limited to Andhra Pradesh growers for 2015 auctions w.e.f. 19.09.2015. As a result, as on date of closure of auction i.e. on 02.11.2015, 27950 registered growers benefitted from the scheme, resulted in financial outgo of Rs.16.85 crore @Rs. 15 per kg from the Government of India and Rs.5.61 crore @ Rs.5 per kg from the state Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(ii) On direction of the Government, Tobacco Board through Indian embassy in respective countries is exploring the potential for promotion of FCV tobacco world-wide as long-term measures.

(iii) Based upon RBI's circular dated 03.07.2015, a clarification has been issued to Tobacco Board to allow foreign buyers to participate in the auction process on cash & carry & retail basis in terms of the said circular.

(iii) The Government of India has reduced crop size to 120 million kg for Andhra Pradesh crop season 2015-16 from 172 million kg of last crop season 2014-15.

(iv) In order to provide economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing to farmers who will be impacted by the reducing demand for tobacco, Tobacco Board is working vigorously in collaboration with CTRI besides educational and awareness programmes on cultivation of alternate crops to FCV tobacco.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 105  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015

EXPORT OF MEAT

105(H).SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- the registered meat exporters/ companies in the country at present;
- the quantity and value of meat/cattle meat exported from the country during each of the last three years and the current year, cattle and country-wise;
- whether the meat of camel is being exported despite ban on it; and
- if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government against the guilty companies?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार )  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

There are 64 Abattoirs-cum-Meat Processing Plants/stand alone Abattoirs and 38 meat processing plants registered with Agricultural Processed Export Development Authority (APEDA) in the country at present.

- The quantity and value of meat exported from the country during each of last three years and the current year, product and country-wise is given below. As per Foreign Trade Policy of the Government, meat export of beef which covers cows, oxen, bulls and calves is prohibited and is not allowed.

(i) EXPORT OF MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS:

Quantity in MT/Value in US\$ Million

COMMODITY	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16 (Upto Sept.)	
	Qty	VALUE	Qty	VALUE	Qty	VALUE	Qty	VALUE
BUFFALO MEAT	1076103	3201.14	1365643	4350.38	1475540	4781.18	59884	1889.98
OTHER MEAT	194	0.43	268	0.55	262	0.44	-	-
PROCESSED	796	1.73	508	1.29	405	2.29	27	0.91

MEAT								
SHEEP/GOAT MEAT	15287	78.35	22608	115.37	23614	135.71	1250	72.75
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1092380</b>	<b>3281.65</b>	<b>1389027</b>	<b>4467.59</b>	<b>1499821</b>	<b>4919.62</b>	<b>61161</b>	<b>1963.64</b>

Source: DGCI&S

**(ii) Country-wise (top five) export of meat**

Quantity in MT/Value in Rs.Crore

COUNTRY	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16 (Apr to Sep)	
	QTY	VAL	QTY	VAL	QTY	VAL	QTY	VAL
VIETNAM	302556.15	5129.19	524483.90	10976.18	633939.42	13210.11	208533.10	4586.80
EGYPT	71295.33	1257.20	107825.72	2033.33	128082.00	2574.03	80948.00	1659.03
MALAYSIA	115360.03	1943.71	121713.22	2356.42	130876.81	2586.03	69623.90	1381.61
SAUDI ARAB	73852.09	1301.22	80432.32	1691.79	80844.87	1844.36	33315.75	805.49
IRAQ	24738.20	352.99	29992.00	526.77	23602.54	406.16	24665.46	449.18
Others	504571.47	7862.86	524565.87	9578.52	502459.96	9506.88	194604.77	3762.94
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1092373.26</b>	<b>17847.17</b>	<b>1389013.03</b>	<b>27163.01</b>	<b>1499805.59</b>	<b>30127.56</b>	<b>611690.98</b>	<b>12645.04</b>

Source: DGCI&S

(c) & (d) As per Foreign Trade Policy of the Government, export and import of live camel is 'restricted' and meat of the camel is 'free'. However, no export of meat of camel during the last three years and the current year (Upto September, 2015) has been made.

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**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 109**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015**

**PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO LDCS IN TRADE**

**109. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide preferential treatment to least Developed Countries (LDCs) in trade in services; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार )  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) : Yes, Madam.

(b) : 1. India will provide preferential treatment to LDCs in trade in service in respect of:

- i) Visa related issues where India will waive visa fees for LDC applicants seeking Indian business and employment visas.
  - ii) Technical Assistance and capacity building in financial services, insurance services, MSME sector, agriculture and rural development, railways & specially designed courses in consultancy services and technical assistance for development of chartered accountancy and company/corporate secretary professions in LDCs.
  - iii) Market access commitments in some services subsectors, including access for LDC professionals subject to fulfillment of all immigration and qualification requirements.
2. Subsequent to approval by the Union Cabinet, the Permanent Mission of India in the WTO has notified India's offer in the WTO on 30.09.2015. The notification will come into effect from 01.12.2015. India will maintain these preferences for the period of the waiver.

.....

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 110  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015

**TRADE BETWEEN INDIA AND AFRICA**

**110(H).SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- a) whether trade between India and Africa has more than doubled during the last decade and if so, the details thereof;
- b) whether the Government has announced to provide certain concessional credit to Africa in India-Africa Forum Summit in order to strengthen commercial ties with African countries;
- c) if so, the details thereof and the sectors under which said fund is likely to be provided; and
- d) whether the Government has also emphasised to address the issues related to food security and agriculture subsidy in the World Trade Organisation summit to be held in Nairobi and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार )  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

**(a):** Yes, Madam. India's total trade with Africa increased from US\$ 12 billion during 2005-06 to US\$ 72 billion in 2014-15. During this period, exports from India to Africa increased from US\$ 7 billion to US\$ 33 billion and imports from Africa to India increased from US\$ 5 billion to US\$ 39 billion.

**(b) to (d):** During the 3<sup>rd</sup> India Africa Forum Summit, the Government of India announced India's offer for concessional credit of US\$ 10 billion over the next 5 years to African Countries to strengthen India-Africa partnership, in addition to the US\$ 7.4 billion concessional credit programme committed by India since the 1<sup>st</sup> India Africa Forum Summit in 2008. The Governments of African countries will propose projects in areas/sectors where they would seek concessional credit from Govt. of India. In the past, such projects have broadly covered sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure, power transmission, water supply and so on. Government of India emphasised that at the ministerial meeting of the WTO in November at Nairobi, India and Africa must ensure that a permanent solution on public stock holding for food security and special safeguard mechanism in agriculture for the developing countries should be achieved.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 116**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015**

**EXPORT TARGETS**

**116(H). SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- a) whether the Government has achieved the export targets during each of the last three years and the current year;
- b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the steps taken by the Government to achieve the export targets;
- c) the share of cottage industries and small industries in exports from the country during the said period; and
- d) the details of the scheme for providing financial package to the handloom industry and the names of the districts of Uttar Pradesh proposed to be included under the scheme?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (सीतारमण श्रीमती निर्मला)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार )  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a, b& c) The export targets, export and share of cottage industries and small industries (MS&ME)for each of the last three years and current year are shown in the table below.

Value (US\$ Billion)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2014-15 (April- October)	2015-16 (April- October)
Export Target	350	325	340	.....	.....
Export	300.4	314.4	310.3	187.3	154.3
% share of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	43.0%	42.4%	44.7%	.....	.....
Trade deficit	190.3	135.8	137.7	86.3	77.8
Source: DGCI&S Kolkatta					

The main reasons for the fall in exports are,

- (i) The major global slowdown during 2014 and 2015 which has impacted Global Trade and India's Trade adversely.
- (ii) World Economic Outlook forecasts for import has been revised specially from emerging markets and developing economies from 3.5% to 1.3% for the year 2015.
- (iii) Moderate but uncertain recovery in the US Economy.
- (iv) The significant slowdown includes the Chinese Economy
- (v) Sharp fall in Crude and Petroleum product prices, (Brent crude declining from about USD 98 per barrel last year to USD 47.57 at present).
- (vi) fall in other

commodity prices (Gold prices fell by 7.2 % high grade copper by about 26% in last one year (vii)  
Currency Fluctuations

The steps taken by Government to enhance the export are :

- (i) New Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20) launched on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015 with a focus on supporting both manufacturing and services exports and improving the 'Ease of Doing Business'. The policy has introduced two new schemes, namely, 'Merchandise Exports from India Scheme'(MEIS) for incentivising export of specified goods to specified markets and 'Service Exports from India Scheme' (SEIS) for increasing exports of notified services from India.
- (ii) By way of trade facilitation and enhancing the ease of doing business, Government reduced the number of mandatory documents required for exports and imports to three each, which is comparable with international benchmarks. The trade community can file applications online for various trade related schemes. Online payment of application fees through Credit/Debit Cards and electronic fund transfer from 53 Banks has been put in place.
- (iii) The Government has also expanded the coverage of Merchandise Exports from India scheme on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 by adding 110 new items to the original 4914 lines included in the scheme. The reward rates/country coverage of 2228 items were enhanced. Consequently the envisaged revenue outgo under the scheme was increased from Rs. 18,000/- crore earlier to Rs. 21,000/- crore per annum.
- (iv) Government has infused additional Corpus (Capital) to the tune of Rs. 375/- crore into the National Export Insurance Account (NEIA), raising the corpus to over Rs. 2,100/- crore, and strengthen the capacity to augment Project exports from the country. The equity capital of ECGC Ltd. has also been raised by Rs. 50 crore to Rs. 1,300 crore enabling higher underwriting capacity to support exporters to expand their business and support banks for adequate lending to exporters.
- (v) Recently, the government has approved the proposal for implementing the Interest Equalization Scheme on Pre & Post shipment Rupee Export Credit w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015 for 5 years, incorporating an interest equalization element of 3% per annum. This scheme will facilitated access export credit at competitive rate of interest, given the lower interest rate level prevailing for exporters in other countries.
- (vi) The State governments have been requested to develop their export strategy, appoint export commissioners, address infrastructure constraints restricting movement of goods, facilitate refund of VAT/Octroi/State level cess, and address other issues relating to various clearances etc. and build capacity of new exporters, in order to promote exports.

Handloom Marketing Assistance is one of the Component of National Handloom Development programme (NHDP) introduced during the 12th plan period for implementation. Under the scheme, Export promotion is one of the component of the scheme. The objective of the handloom export promotion is to assist the handloom cooperative societies & corporations in developing exportable products and assist handloom agencies in publicity and international marketing of their products through publicity related activities and participation in international exhibitions, Buyer-seller meets etc., and to make available to the exporters the latest international designs, colour forecasts, trends etc. Under this scheme assistance is provided to different districts of different State.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 132**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015**

**RUBBER GROWERS**

**132. SHRI C.N. JAYADEVAN:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- a) whether there is a continued crash in the prices of rubber during the last three years and the current year;
- b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise; and
- c) the measures taken by the Government to help rubber growers in Kerala?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार)  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

- (a) & (b): Government is aware of the decline in the prices of Natural Rubber (NR) caused primarily by fall in rubber prices in the international markets and the lower demand for the type of NR produced domestically. Main reasons for the decline of rubber prices in the international market are weak demand for NR due to moderating economic growth in China, Increase in world stock of NR particularly in Thailand and low oil prices resulting in low prices of synthetic rubber. However, the domestic rubber prices have generally stayed above international prices.

Details of prices of NR in the domestic and international market for the last three years are given below:

**Prices of NR in the domestic and international markets (Rs./Kg)**

Year/ Month	Sheet rubber		Block rubber		Latex (60% drc)	
	Domestic (RSS 4 Kottayam)	Internati- onal (RSS 3 Bangkok)	Domestic (ISNR 20 Kottayam )	Internat-ional (SMR 20 Kuala Lumpur)	Domestic (Kottayam)	International (Kuala Lumpur)
2012-13	176.82	175.76	168.17	160.89	117.72	111.64
2013-14	166.02	155.25	156.43	137.14	123.31	101.06
2014-15	132.57	112.71	114.40	96.04	94.46	77.07
Oct., 2015	114.10	86.28	102.64	81.98	86.66	62.60

- (c) The Government has recently increased the duty on import of dry rubber from “20% or Rs 30 per kg whichever is lower” to “25% or Rs. 30 per kg. whichever is lower” w.e.f 30.4.2015. The

Government has also reduced the period of utilization of imported dry rubber under advance licensing scheme from 18 months to 6 months. RSS (Ribbed Smoked Sheet) and TSR (Technically Specified Rubber) has been added in Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS) which would make them eligible for an incentive at the rate of two per cent for exports vide DGFT Public Notice No. 44/2015-20 dated 29 October 2015.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 141**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015**

**EXPORT OF LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS**

**141(H). SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:**  
**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:**  
**SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:**  
**SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:**  
**SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:**  
**SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- a) the quantum and value of leather and leather products exported from the country during each of the last three years and the current year;
- b) whether the export of leather and leather products have declined during the said period particularly from April to September, 2015 as compared to the corresponding period last year and if so, the details thereof, year-wise;
- c) whether the Council for Leather Exports has requested the Government to come out with favourable tariff so as to revive the leather industry and if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
- d) whether the Government proposes to provide interest subsidy to leather industry and if so, the details thereof along with other steps taken by the Government to revive the said industry; and
- e) whether the leather industry has the requisite potentials to grow in the State of Karnataka and if so, whether the Government proposes to set up leather cluster in Belgaum and Bangalore rural districts of the State to tap the potentials of the leather industry of the State and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार)  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

- (a) The details of value and quantum of leather and leather products exported from India are enclosed as Annexure-A.
- (b) Yes Sir. During April to September 2015, the export of leather and leather products was US\$ 3123.83 million against US\$ 3437.18 million in the corresponding period of 2014.

- (c) The Council for Leather Exports had requested for reduction in the rate of Central excise duty on footwear with leather upper from 12% to 6% which has already been accepted by the Government.
- (d) Yes Sir. The Government has approved 3% interest equalization scheme for all MSME units in leather sector and for 7 tariff lines at HS 4 digit level for leather goods and footwear w.e.f. 1.4.2015. Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDPP) is being implemented for overall development of leather sector in the country by augmenting raw material base, capacity enhancement, modernization and up-gradation of leather units, establish institutional facilities and support to artisans.
- (e) The export of leather, leather products and footwear from Karnataka has increased from Rs.562.26 crore in 2013-14 to Rs.591 crore in 2014-15. There is no proposal to set up leather cluster in the State of Karnataka.



**Annexure – A**

In Value Terms, Export of leather and leather products from the country have increased from USD 5.01 billion (Rs.5009.52 million) in 2012-13 to USD 6.50 billion (USD 6499.97 million) in 2014-15.

<b>2012-13</b> APRIL- MAR	<b>2013-14</b> APRIL-MAR	<b>2014-15</b> APRIL-MAR	<b>2015-16</b> APRIL-SEP
<b>5,009.52</b>	<b>5,916.12</b>	<b>6,499.97</b>	<b>3123.83</b>

Quantity wise export of leather, leather products and footwear (except leather garments) has increased during last 3 years as shown below.

<b>Product</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
Finished Leather	Sq. ft	759565425	822668171	834452198
Footwear Components, Leather Footwear, Non-Leather Footwear, Leather Gloves	Pairs	270994825	293813873	332035246
Leather Garments, Harness and Saddlery, Leather Goods	Pieces	170110208	172119056	184430990

(Based on membership records of Council for Leather Exports as available upto 2014-15)

Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDLP) is being implemented by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan for overall development of leather sector in the country. The major objective of ILDP is to augment raw material base, enhance capacity, modernization and up-gradation of leather units, address environmental concerns, human resource development, support to traditional leather artisans, address infrastructure constraints and establish institutional facilities. The ILDP comprises the following six sub-schemes:

1. **Integrated Development of Leather Sector (IDLS)** – Under this sub-scheme, assistance is provided for technology up-gradation/modernization and/or expansion and setting up of a new unit in the leather sector. The Sub-scheme provides assistance in form of investment grant to the extent of 30% of cost of new plant and machinery for micro and small enterprises and 20% of cost of new plant and machinery for other units subject to a ceiling of Rs. 2 crore for each product line.
2. **Human Resource Development (HRD)** – HRD mission targets potential work force for leather sector and lays stress on skill development and technical development. This project is intended to train and prepare individuals to be fit to work in medium to large industrial units. Up gradation of skills of persons already employed in the sector, besides training for trainers/supervisors, is also undertaken. Under Placement Linked Skill Development Training, at least 75% of trained persons are placed in the industry as per the guidelines.
3. **Support to Artisan** – There are various clusters in India making traditional footwear and other leather goods. The aim of this scheme is to promote the clusters at various forums as they are an integral part of rural Indian economy and have potential for generating local employment and export. The artisan clusters all over India would be supported for enhancing their design and product development, capacity building, providing marketing support, establishing common facility center and marketing support/linkage. The broad objective of this component is to ensure better and higher returns to the artisans resulting into socio-economic upliftment.
4. **Establishment of Institutional Facilities** – The sub-scheme of ILDP aims at providing institutional facilities by way of establishing new campuses of FDDI to meet the growing demand of the leather industry for footwear technologies,

designers, supervisors and mechanics. Two new branches of FDDI in Punjab and Gujarat are being set up.

5. **Leather Technology, Innovation & Environmental Issues** – This sub-scheme provides financial support to Leather Cluster to meet the prescribed pollution control discharge norms and environmental issues. This covers establishment/ expansion/ up gradation of CETPs, Technology benchmarking for implementing cleaner technologies for environment management, utilization of solid waste from tanneries and conducting workshops to educate and train the tanners and tannery workers.
6. **Mega Leather Cluster** – The major objective of developing Mega Leather Clusters is to create state of the art infrastructure and to integrate the production chain in a manner that caters to the business needs of the leather industry so as to cater to the domestic market and exports. These mega clusters will assist the entrepreneurs to set up units with modern infrastructure, latest technology, and adequate training and Human Resource Development (HRD) inputs. The development of Mega Leather Clusters would help in creating additional employment opportunity, particularly for the weaker sections of society. Mega Leather Clusters (MLC) for the development of leather industry will have minimum common facilities. The project cost would cover various infrastructure developments like Core Infrastructure, Special Infrastructure, Production Infrastructure, HRD & Social Infrastructure, R&D Infrastructure and Export services related infrastructure.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 148  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015

**PLANTATION OF RUBBER**

**148. SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- a) whether the Government has not revised scale of subsidies and other Inputs for new planting and replanting of rubber for more than last ten years;
- b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- c) whether the Government is considering expansion of rubber to other North-Eastern states other than Tripura, where the soil and climatic condition has been found suitable for rubber cultivation; and
- d) if so, the details thereof along with the fiscal and physical plan for next ten years?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार)  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

- (a) & (b): The subsidy rates for new planting and replanting of rubber have been raised during the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan to Rs. 25,000 per hectare in the traditional region and Rs. 35,000 per hectare in the non-traditional region respectively, covering 8% and 15% of the development costs.
- (d) & (d) Expansion of rubber cultivation to North Eastern (NE) states is an approved activity under the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan. The target for expansion of rubber cultivation with financial assistance in NE states other than Tripura is 16,000 ha under 12<sup>th</sup> Plan. Potential area available in NE states for rubber cultivation is estimated provisionally at around 300,000 ha. Fiscal and physical plans of the special rubber plantation development schemes are fixed from year to year on the basis of discussions with various State Government and concerned Ministries.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 154**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015**

**DECLINE IN EXPORTS**

**154. SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:**

**SHRI JOSE K. MANI:**

**SHRI MAHEISH GIRRI:**

**SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:**

**SHRI GOPAL SHETTY:**

**SHRIMATI VANAROJA R:**

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:**

**SHRI RAVNEET SINGH:**

**SHRI BHARATHI MOHAN R.K.:**

**SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE:**

**SHRI PONGULETI SRINIVASA REDDY:**

**SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:**

**SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN:**

**DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- the quantum and value of export vis-a-vis export target fixed during each of the last three years and the current year, commodity/sector and country-wise;
- whether there is a decline in the exports of major sectors during the said period resulting in increase in trade deficit;
- if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor, sector-wise and its impact on employment generation;
- the details of the problems/ challenges being faced by Indian exporters and the steps taken by the Government to address them; and
- the measures taken to boost exports and explore new markets, minimize the impact of the trade deficit and achieve the export targets?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार )  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a,b&c) The export target fixed during each of the last three years along with value of exports and trade deficit is given in the table below.

Value (US\$ Billion)

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	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 (April-October)*
Export Target	350	325	340	.....
Export	300.4	314.4	310.3	154.3
Trade deficit	190.3	135.8	137.7	77.8

\*Provisional

Quantum and the value of exports country, commodity/sector-wise are available in the DGCI&S publication in CD form namely 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India' Vol. I (Exports). Such CD's are regularly sent to Parliament Library by DGCI&S, Kolkata.

In value terms, the merchandise trade deficit has decreased from US\$ 86.27 Billion in Apr-Oct 2014 to US\$ 77.76 Billion for the same period in 2015. The major sectors which are showing fall are PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, TELECOM INSTRUMENTS, PLASTIC RAW MATERIALS, ORGANIC CHEMICALS, BULK MINERALS AND ORES SILVER, INORGANIC CHEMICALS, CONSUMER ELECTRONICS, PULSES, PROJECT GOODS FRESH FRUITS, DYE INTERMEDIATES, RAILWAY TRNSPRT EQUIPMNTS, PRTS OTHER CRUDE MINERALS, SURGICALS, TIN AND PRODUCTS MADE OF TIN, BOOKS, PUBLICATIONS AND PRNTNG.

The main reasons for the fall in exports are,

(i) The major global slowdown during 2014 and 2015 which has impacted Global Trade and India's Trade adversely. (ii) World Economic Outlook forecasts for import has been revised specially from emerging markets and developing economies from 3.5% to 1.3% for the year 2015. (iii) Moderate but uncertain recovery in the US Economy. (iv) The significant slowdown includes the Chinese Economy (v) Sharp fall in Crude and Petroleum product prices, (Brent crude declining from about USD 98 per barrel last year to USD 47.57 at present). (vi) fall in other commodity prices (Gold prices fell by 7.2 % high grade copper by about 26% in last one year (vii) Currency Fluctuations

According to Ministry of Labour & Employment Quarterly Survey, in comparison to Dec 2013 the employment in 2014 has increased by 196000 in exporting units. There is an increase in all other sectors except in leather and handloom/power loom exporting units where employment has come down by 7000 and 4000 respectively.

( d & e ) The steps taken by Government to address the challenges faced by exporters are:

- (vii) New Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20) launched on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015 with a focus on supporting both manufacturing and services exports and improving the 'Ease of Doing Business'. The policy has introduced two new schemes, namely, 'Merchandise Exports from India Scheme'(MEIS) for incentivising export of specified goods to specified markets and 'Service Exports from India Scheme' (SEIS) for increasing exports of notified services from India.
- (viii) By way of trade facilitation and enhancing the ease of doing business, Government reduced the number of mandatory documents required for exports and imports to three each, which is comparable with international benchmarks. The trade community can file applications online for various trade related schemes. Online payment of application fees through Credit/Debit Cards and electronic fund transfer from 53 Banks has been put in place.
- (ix) The Government has also expanded the coverage of Merchandise Exports from India scheme on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 by adding 110 new items to the original 4914 lines included in the scheme. The reward rates/country coverage of 2228 items were enhanced. Consequently the envisaged revenue outgo under the scheme was increased from Rs. 18,000/- crore earlier to Rs. 21,000/- crore per annum.
- (x) Government has infused additional Corpus (Capital) to the tune of Rs. 375/- crore into the National Export Insurance Account (NEIA), raising the corpus to over Rs. 2,100/- crore, and strengthen the capacity to augment Project exports from the country. The equity capital of ECGC Ltd. has also been raised by Rs. 50 crore to Rs. 1,300 crore enabling higher underwriting capacity to support exporters to expand their business and support banks for adequate lending to exporters.
- (xi) Recently, the government has approved the proposal for implementing the Interest Equalization Scheme on Pre & Post shipment Rupee Export Credit w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015 for 5 years, incorporating an interest

equalization element of 3% per annum. This scheme will facilitate access to export credit at competitive rate of interest, given the lower interest rate level prevailing for exporters in other countries.

- (xii) The State governments have been requested to develop their export strategy, appoint export commissioners, address infrastructure constraints restricting movement of goods, facilitate refund of VAT/Octroi/State level cess, and address other issues relating to various clearances etc. and build capacity of new exporters, in order to promote exports.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 159**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015**

**TRADE TIES WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES**

- 159. SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:**  
**SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:**  
**SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:**  
**SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:**  
**SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE:**  
**SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:**  
**KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:**  
**DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD:**  
**SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:**  
**DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- whether India has discussed various ways with African countries to bolster trade ties during the recent India-Africa Summit;
- if so, the details and the outcome thereof and the main issues discussed therein;
- whether India has signed any agreements with African countries in this regard; and
- if so, the details thereof along with the benefits likely to accrue as a result thereof?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार )  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

**(a) & (b):** During the recently concluded India-Africa Forum Summit, India and African countries recognized that businesses of both sides through growing trade, investment and technology linkages provide a strong dimension to India-Africa partnership. Both sides further recognized the huge potential for expansion of trade and investment in Africa and India. Some of the major trade related issues that were discussed and agreed were: to fast track the implementation of the Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme offered by India; work towards creating conducive environment for trade facilitation in accordance with the WTO Bali Trade Facilitation Agreement; Support establishment of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Medium and Small Industries (MSIs) in order to promote employment creation and income generation for people of both sides; Promote Public Private Partnership (PPP) by encouraging Indian businesses to set up skills development units in African industrial zones with the aim to train African engineers, technicians, managers and workers as well as other experts in



areas such as food security and solar energy; create a mechanism to enable women groups to access credit for productive activities and markets for their products; enhance cooperation through training and collective negotiations on global trade issues, including at the WTO.

**(c)**; No, Madam.

**(d)**; Does not arise.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 166  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015

EXPORT OF PRODUCTS

**166. KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV:**  
**SHRIMATI KAVITHA KALVAKUNTLA:**  
**SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- whether the Government has enhanced support for export of various products and included some additional items under the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme;
- if so, the details thereof indicating the 'Global Support' and 'Higher Support' for different categories of products;
- whether the trade gap between exports and imports has widened during the last three years and the current year;
- if so, the details thereof, year-wise along with the reasons therefor; and
- the extent to which the incentives announced by the Government for exporters are likely to bridge trade gaps?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार)  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

- (a) & (b) : The Government has enhanced support on certain products/markets and has included additional items under Merchandise Exports from India Scheme. These have been notified vide Public Notice Nos. 27 dated 14.07.2015, 28 dated 15.07.2015 and 44 dated 29.10.2015. These Public Notices are available on the website of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade at <http://dgft@gov.in>. The Global Support and Higher Support can be seen in these Public Notices.
- (c) & (d) : The trade deficit for Merchandise trade, which was US\$ 190.3 Billion in 2012-13 has since declined to US\$ 137.7 Billion in

2014-15. Trade deficit for April to October 2015 is US\$ 77.76 Billion as against the trade deficit of US\$ 86.27 Billion for the period April to October 2014, which is a decrease of 9.87%.

- (e) : The reward/incentives provided by the Government makes the exporters competitive in the international market and may help in boosting the exports. This, in turn, will help in bridging the trade gaps.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 185  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015

**EXPORT OF CASH CROPS**

**185(H). SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:**

**SHRI JASVANTSINH SUMANBHAI BHABHOR:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- whether the Government has formulated a scheme/taken steps to boost the export of cash crops;
- if so, the details thereof;
- the details of the export of cash crops in terms of rupees during the last three years;
- whether the export of cash crops from the country has not been encouraged and if so, the reasons therefor; and
- the reaction of the Government thereto?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

& (b): Government takes regular measures to boost export of cash crops namely tea, coffee, rubber, spices, tobacco and cashew which includes, inter alia, providing financial and technical assistance to the growers and other stakeholders for participation in trade fairs, exhibitions, buyer-seller meets, brand promotion, public relation campaigns and incentives for export of value added products. The Export Policy is implemented taking into account the production, productivity, export destinations, as well as global and domestic demand and supply of the Commodity.

(c): The details of the export of cash crops in term of rupees during the last three years are given below:

(Value in Rs. crores)

Year	Tea	Coffee	Natural Rubber	Spices	Tobacco	Cashew Kernel
2012-13	4005.93	4552.75	468.50	12,112.76	4979.05	4046.23
2013-14	4509.09	4539.89	85.20	13,735.39	6092.86	5058.73
2014-15	3823.64	4947.10	11.50	14,899.68	5652.17	5432.85

(d) & (e): Question does not arise.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 191**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015**

**EXPORT OF TEA**

**191. DR. P. VENUGOPAL:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- whether only 95 million kg of tea is exported from the south as against the production of 240 million kg of tea every year in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- whether the increase by 10 million kg is likely to make a big difference in south Indian tea prices and if so, the details thereof;
- whether the United Planters Association of South India has suggested the Government to form a body with representatives from the Government and the Industry that will fix targets for exports and work towards it; and
- if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार )  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

- (a) Tea production vis-à-vis exports from South India during the last three years are given in the following table :

<b>Year</b>	<b>Production (M.Kgs)</b>	<b>Exports (M.Kgs)</b>
2012-13	241.69	84.78
2013-14	243.71	92.48
2014-15	241.36	87.49
2015-16 (Apr-Sep)	129.83	45.42
2014-15 (Apr-Sep)	130.37	43.45

Approximately 35% of South Indian tea produced is exported. The quantity exported from South India region has ranged from 85 million kilograms to 93 million kilograms during the last three years.

- (b) Average export price fetched vis-à-vis auction price of tea for both All India and South India are given in the following table:

<b>Year</b>	<b>All India Export price (Rs/Kg)</b>	<b>All India Auction Price (Rs/Kg)</b>	<b>South India Export price (Rs/Kg)</b>	<b>South India Auction price (Rs/Kg)</b>
2012-13	185.26	127.91	129.58	93.75
2013-14	199.73	126.12	140.98	95.82
2014-15	192.07	125.59	135.69	81.15

- (c) & (d): The United Planters Association of South India (UPASI), in a representation, has expressed their willingness to work closely with the Government and Tea Board to promote South Indian tea in the important markets viz Russia, Pakistan, USA, UAE and Egypt, Iran and South East Asia. Suggestions of stakeholders including UPASI for increasing export of Indian tea in the coming years have been noted.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 193**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015**

**TRADE WITH IRAN**

**193(H). SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- a) whether the Government has agreed to sign any free trade agreement with Iran;
- b) if so, the benefits likely to be accrued as a result thereof along with the time by which it is likely to be implemented;
- c) whether Iran has shown interest in the trade of tea, pharma and edible items with India;
- d) if so, whether trade of all these items are likely to be covered under oil agreement; and
- e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार )  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a)&(b): No, Sir. However, in the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Joint Commission between India and Iran held in May, 2013, it was agreed to commerce preliminary consultation between the concerned Ministries of both sides for a Preferential Trade Agreement(PTA). In the first meeting of Joint Working Group on Trade and Commerce held in April, 2015 in Tehran, both sides agreed to examine the scope and the feasibility of entering into a PTA. In the second meeting of the Joint Working Group held on 18-19 November, 2015 in New Delhi both sides agreed, inter-alia, to open up a channel for exchange of information, etc for this purpose.

(c) : Yes Sir.

(d) &(e): The Rupee payment arrangement with Iran is in place to (i) ease payment in respect of imports of oil and (ii) help facilitate payment to exporters in rupees.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 206**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015**

**TRADE POTENTIAL OF MINERAL DEPOSITS**

**206(H). SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- a) whether the Government has taken steps to identify the trade potential of major mineral deposits in the Nagaur District in Rajasthan;
- b) if so, the extent of progress made in this regard; and
- c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the work is likely to be started in this regard?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार )  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) to (c) The information is being collected and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 211**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015**

**EXPORT AND IMPORT OF CARDAMOM AND CASHEW**

**211. SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- a) the quantum of Cardamom, and Cashew exported and imported during each of the last three years and the current year;
- b) whether the Government has conducted any research to increase the per hectare production of Cashew during the said period; and
- c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार )  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a): The quantum of Cardamom (Small & Large) and Cashew exported and imported during each of the last three years and the current year (April-August) is at Annexure-1.

(b) & (c): Research on cashew for increasing per hectare production of cashew is conducted by the Directorate of Cashew Research (DCR), Puttur, Karnataka and All India Coordinated Research Centers on Cashew (AICRP) in various cashew growing states under the supervision of Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR). Some of the notable research achievements made by the Centers for increasing production of cashew are as under:-

1. Total of 38 high yielding varieties of cashew have been released so far from DCR and AICRP centers suitable for cultivation at different agro climatic conditions.
2. Techniques for commercial propagation of cashew by soft wood grafting has been standardized for quality planting material production.
3. Plant canopy management and top working was standardized for enhancing yield performance.
4. High density planting technology has been standardized.
5. Integrated pest management technologies for the control of major pests of cashew viz. cashew steam and root borer, tea mosquito bug have been developed.

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**Statement showing Export and Import Figures of Cardamom (Small & Large) and Cashew during the last three years and the current year (April-August).**

**Cardamom (Small)**

Quantity in MT.

Year	Export	Import
2012-13	2372	495
2013-14	3600	1110
2014-15 (P)	3795	2285
2015-16 (E ) ( Apr- Aug)	1475	350

(P) Provisional (E) Estimate

**Cardamom (Large)**

Quantity in MT.

Year	Export	Import
2012-13	1,217	3895
2013-14	1,110	3705
2014-15 (P)	665	2750
2015-16 (E ) ( Apr- Aug)	105	1200

(P) Provisional (E) Estimate

**Cashew**

Quantity in MT.

Year	Export	Import
2012-13	1,04,092	8,98,521
2013-14	1,20,737	7,76,334
2014-15 (P)	1,34,567	9,40,813
2015-16 (April-Aug)	42,348	6,47,653

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 220**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015**

**IMPORT OF PULSES**

**220. SHRIMATI VANAROJA R.:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- a) whether India is planning to barter surplus sugar for pulses from abroad;
- b) if so, the details thereof;
- c) whether the Government has made any discussions with the countries from where we import pulses and those countries which need sugar; and
- d) if so, the details thereof and the response received by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार )  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

- (a) to (c) For facilitation of evacuation of surplus sugar from India to other countries the Government have been contemplating on various options including trade through counter-trade/barter, Lines of Credit, etc. The Indian Missions located in various target countries have been requested to pursue various trade opportunities with a view to evacuate surplus sugar. Trade delegations too have been mounted to some of the important destination countries.
- (d) Pursing trade Agenda with foreign partners is a long drawn process and depends upon several factors including international prices, demand & supply situation, mechanism for barter/ procurement, rules & regulations governing trade and quality of agriculture produce etc.

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