RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1121
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH DECEMBER, 2015

DECLINE IN TEA EXPORTS

1121. SHRI PANKAJ BORA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether Government is aware that the tea exports have declined considerably;
b) whether it is a fact that this decline has been due to no steps being taken by Government to improve the quality of tea; and
c) if so, what steps have been taken by the Central Government for proper development of tea sector in the country?

ANSWER

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

*****

(a) & (b): The exports of tea during 2015-16 (April-September) has registered a positive growth of 6.05% as compared to the corresponding period in 2014-15. The decline in tea exports during 2014-15 is attributable, inter alia, to loss of Assam Orthodox tea production to the tune of almost 20 million kg. during May-July, 2014 caused by adverse climatic conditions. At the same time, the record output in Africa, particularly in Kenya had resulted in lower prices of teas from Africa at USD 2 per kg putting pressure on export values of Indian Tea in the international market.

(c) Tea Board has taken a series of significant steps for maintaining supply of quality Indian tea to the overseas markets. Tea Board of India has implemented a comprehensive guideline for safe usage of Plant Protection Formulations (PPFs) in the tea plantations in India called “Plant Protection Code” (PPC). Tea Research Institutes in India have been advised to recommend only such plant protection formulations (PPFs) that have been cleared and registered by Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee (CIB & RC), Govt. of India with label claim in Tea. Further, the PPC has been updated with the available Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) fixed by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

The Indian tea industry is encouraged to take steps to reduce its reliance on synthetic plant protection formulations so that Indian tea continues to meet high standards of quality as expected by the domestic consumers and international exporters. Tea Board of India has also launched ‘Trustea’- as a voluntary certification programme for the Indian tea industry to indicate that no pesticides banned by the Central and State Government have been used in production of tea. Majority of the tea factories in India follow prescribed guidelines for Good
Agriculture Practices (GAP) / Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) / Good Hygiene Practices (GHP) Standards. Tea Board also facilitates for modernization of tea factories and quality upgradation of Indian tea through schemes of Plantation Development Scheme (PDS) / Quality Upgradation and Product Diversification Scheme (QUPDS).

*****
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1124
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH DECEMBER, 2015

INCREASE IN IMPORT OF SOYABEAN OIL

1124. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether it is a fact that import of soyabean oil has increased manifold in the recent past;
b) if so, the year-wise details thereof for the last two years; and
c) what corrective measures Government proposes to take to increase domestic production of soyabean oil to reduce imports?

ANSWER

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

(a)& (b): The details of soyabean oil imported into the country during the last two years and the current year is at Annex.

(c): To increase production and productivity of oilseed crops including soyabean, through an integrated and comprehensive approach, Mini Mission-I under the National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) has been implemented since 2014-15 in 25 States. In order to make the country self-reliant and address the issues of productivity of oilseeds cultivation, including soyabean, modern technologies like improved varieties, ridge-furrow methods of planting, effective water management, application of bio- fertilizers including seed treatment with rhizobium, mechanization, inter – cropping of oilseeds with cereals / pulses and eco – friendly plant protection measures are being promoted through cluster demonstrations, training etc.. Seed infrastructure is also being supported under the Scheme.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITCHS</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2013-14 QTY(TON)</th>
<th>2013-14 VAL(US $ MILLION)</th>
<th>2014-15 QTY(TON)</th>
<th>2014-15 VAL(US $ MILLION)</th>
<th>2015-16 (APR TO SEP) QTY(TON)</th>
<th>2015-16 (APR TO SEP) VAL(US $ MILLION)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15071000</td>
<td>Soyabean crude oil W/N degummed</td>
<td>1345133.00</td>
<td>1366.41</td>
<td>2317045.16</td>
<td>2113.43</td>
<td>1681312.30</td>
<td>1281.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15079010</td>
<td>Soyabean oil of edible grade</td>
<td>2.23</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>5.42</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>15.24</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15079090</td>
<td>Soyabean oil other than edible grade</td>
<td>27.01</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>128.50</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>1064.75</td>
<td>1.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1345162.24</strong></td>
<td><strong>1366.48</strong></td>
<td><strong>2317179.08</strong></td>
<td><strong>2113.95</strong></td>
<td><strong>1682392.28</strong></td>
<td><strong>1283.18</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** FIGURES FOR 2015-16 (APR TO SEP) ARE PROVISIONAL.

*****
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1126
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH DECEMBER, 2015

COMPLAINT AGAINST PSIAs REGARDING DUMPING OF SCRAPS

1126. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether Government has received any complaint against Pre-Shipment Inspection Agencies (PSIAs) regarding irregularities/violations for dumping of scraps in Indian Ports, particularly ports of the State of Tamil Nadu, which affects the environment; and

b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

*****

(a) & (b): Metal scraps are allowed to be imported into India freely subject to Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificate (PSIC). The Pre-Shipment Inspection Agencies (PSIA) are authorised for inspecting metal scraps at the ports of exporting countries and provide PSICs to the effect that import shipments do not carry any contents with radiation and arms & armmunitions. PSIAs are not importers of metal scraps; they are certifying agencies only.

The Chennai Customs Commissionerate has informed that they are investigating some irregularities/violation by some PISAs in issuing Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificates (PSICs) with discrepancies in declaration of radiation, actual cargo, weight of the cargo and port of loading.

*****
1127. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

a) whether Government has evaluated the negative effects of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) on Indian exports;

b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

c) whether Government plans to ask for membership to be a part of TPP and TTIP, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

d) whether Government has taken steps to mitigate the likely impact on India's exports, investment inflows and technology imports due to TPP and TTIP, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

*****

a) The negotiations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) have been concluded but the agreement is not yet ratified for implementation by the participating countries. The Members of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) are currently engaged in negotiations.

b) Does not arise.

c) No Sir, the Government has not sought for membership of either the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) or Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

d) The government is continuously monitoring the developments with regard to Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership in close consultation with industry stakeholders.

*****
WTO CAP ON MSP

1129. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:

    Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

    a) whether the World Trade Organization (WTO) plans to apply a cap on the Minimum Support Price (MSP) provided by Government to the farmers;
    b) if so, the details thereof; and
    c) the details of steps Government plans to take to address the issues and protect the farmers?

ANSWER

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

*****

(a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise, in light of response to Part (a) above.

(c) In the World Trade Organization (WTO), India has consistently pursued the objective of protecting the interests of its farmers, both in the implementation of current rules and in negotiations on new rules. For, example, under the relevant rules of the WTO, if procurement for public stockholding programmes for food security purposes is done at administered prices, rather than at market prices, then the subsidy element, if any, has to be kept within certain prescribed limits. In order to ensure that this does not constrain food security operations in developing countries, India, as part of a coalition of developing countries in the WTO, successfully negotiated an outcome which safeguards the country’s Minimum Support Price operations in perpetuity and commits WTO members to finding a permanent solution on the issue in time for adoption by the 11th Ministerial Conference in 2017. The Government is committed to the cause of farmers and has taken a consistent stand in the WTO to protect their interests.

***
1130. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) the country-wise details of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) that India entered into with various countries;
b) whether Government has decided to revisit all FTAs that India entered into with various countries; and
c) the reasons why Government cannot have product-specific approach while entering into FTAs and regional cooperation agreements?

ANSWER

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

*****

(a) The details of the Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)/Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreements (CECAs), Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements (CEPAs) and Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) entered into by India with various countries and trading blocks is given in Annexure 1 and Annexure 2 respectively.

(b) Every Free Trade Agreement has a joint review mechanism which provides for review of the Agreement from time to time.

(c) The product-specific approach to the rules of origin negotiations can be adopted wherever mutually agreed by all parties. In the case of FTAs with Australia and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) countries product specific rules (PSR) approach has been adopted.

*****
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>Name of the Agreement</th>
<th>Date of Signing of the Agreement</th>
<th>Date of Implementation of the Agreement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>India - Sri Lanka FTA</td>
<td>28th Dec. 1998</td>
<td>1st March, 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Agreement on SAFTA (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives and Afghanistan)</td>
<td>4th January, 2004</td>
<td>1st January, 2006 (Tariff concessions implemented from 1st July, 2006)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Revised Agreement of Cooperation between Government of India and Nepal to control unauthorized trade</td>
<td>27th October, 2009</td>
<td>27th October, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>India - Bhutan Agreement on Trade Commerce and Transit</td>
<td>17th January, 1972</td>
<td>Renewed periodically, with mutually agreed modifications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>India - Thailand FTA - Early Harvest Scheme (EHS)</td>
<td>9th October, 2003.</td>
<td>1st September, 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>India - Singapore CECA</td>
<td>29th June, 2005</td>
<td>1st August, 2005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• 1st June 2010 in respect of India and Vietnam.  
• 1st September 2010 in respect of India and Myanmar.  
• 1st October 2010 in respect of India and Indonesia.  
• 1st November 2010 in respect of India and Brunei.  
• 24 January 2011 in respect of India and Laos.  
• 1st June 2011 in respect of India and the Philippines.  
• 1st August, 2011 in respect of India and Cambodia. |
| 8  | India - South Korea CEPA | 7th August 2009 | 1st January, 2010 |
| 9  | India - Japan CEPA | 16th February, 2011 | 1st August, 2011 |
| 10 | India - Malaysia CECA | 18th February, 2011 | 1st July, 2011 |
| 11 | India-ASEAN Services and Investment Agreement (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, | November, 2014 | 1st July, 2015 |
Annexure 2

**PTAs in force**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Name of the Agreement</th>
<th>Date of Signing of the Agreement</th>
<th>Date of Implementation of the Agreement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) (Bangladesh, China, India, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka)</td>
<td>July, 1975 (revised on 2nd November, 2005)</td>
<td>1st Nov, 1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>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)</td>
<td>13th April, 1988</td>
<td>19th April, 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SAARC Preferential Trading Agreement (SAPTA)(India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Maldives)</td>
<td>11 April, 1993</td>
<td>7 December, 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>India - MERCOSUR (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay)</td>
<td>25th January, 2004</td>
<td>1st June, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>India - Chile</td>
<td>8th March, 2006</td>
<td>11th September, 2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SEEKING FUNDS FOR MEIS TO BOOST FALLING EXPORTS

1131. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether the Ministry has sought funds for Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) in view of falling exports during the current year from Ministry of Finance;

b) if so, the details thereof and the response of Ministry of Finance thereto; and

c) the details of other measures Government is taking to boost the falling exports from India?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

*****

(a) & (b) Department of Commerce (DoC) had requested an allocation of Rs. 21,000 Crore for supporting Merchandise Exports under the Foreign Trade Policy. As desired by DOC, Department of Revenue (DoR) has enhanced the initial allocation of Rs. 18,000/- Crore for MEIS to Rs. 21,000/- Crore.

(c) The details of measures taken by Government to boost falling exports from India are as follows:

(i) New Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20) launched on 1st 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, by consolidating earlier schemes.

(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 29th October, 2015 by adding 110 new items. The reward rates/country coverage of 2228 items were enhanced.

(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. 1st 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.

(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.
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1132
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH DECEMBER, 2015

PROPOSALS FROM US TO JOIN TPP

1132. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether it is a fact that Government has received a proposal from the US to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP);
b) whether it is also a fact that the said Trans-Pacific Partnership will cover about 40 per cent of global commerce and could lead to trade diversion from India;
c) whether Government has taken any decision to join TPP; and
d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

*****

(a) No Sir, the government has not received any proposal from the US to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

(b) As per the 2014 statistics of the World Trade Organisation (WTO); the countries of the Trans-Pacific Partnership account for 22.5% of global trade in goods and commercial services. The negotiations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) have been concluded but the agreement is not yet ratified for implementation by the participating countries. The government is continuously monitoring the developments with regard to Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in close consultation with industry stakeholders.

(c) and (d): No Sir, the government has not taken any decision to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

*****
1136. DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether Government is looking at the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) as the expansion of market for Indian products and services and further investment in Asia-Pacific and Trans-Pacific regions; and

b) if so, the details of clauses in the TPP agreement helping India to withstand the onslaught of the trade war, by western countries from one side of Asia-Pacific entry gate while China forcing from other side of the region?

ANSWER

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

*****

a) and b) The negotiations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) have been concluded but the agreement is not yet ratified for implementation by the participating countries. The government is continuously monitoring the developments with regard to Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in close consultation with industry stakeholders.

*****
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1140  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9\textsuperscript{TH} DECEMBER, 2015

TRADE BY EXPORT ORIENTED INDUSTRIAL UNITS

1140(H). SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) the percentage of trade done by export oriented industrial units out of the total import/export trade during each of the last three years;
b) the quantum of foreign currency earned during the said period;
c) whether the said units are getting economic concessions; and
d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

*****

(a) & (b): The percentage of trade done by export oriented industrial units out of the total import/export trade and foreign currency earned during each of the last three years are as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% share of EOU’s imports to India’s Imports</th>
<th>% share of EOU’s exports to India’s Exports</th>
<th>Foreign Currency earned (Rs. in crores)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>64609.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>1.46</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>60161.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>1.32</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>60425.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam.

The concessions provided to export oriented units are as follows:

i. Exemption from payment of Customs Duty and Central Excise Duties on goods imported/procured from DTA.
ii. Reimbursement of Central Sales Tax (CST) on goods manufactured in India.
iii. Reimbursement of duty paid on fuel procured from Domestic Oil Companies.
iv. Reimbursement of additional duty of excise levied on fuel under the Finance Acts would also be admissible.

****
1142. DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether it is a fact that the bar coding norm may hit 1,000 pharma firms and it has been alleged that it was a plot to elbow out generic drug producers;
b) whether it is also a fact that nearly 1,000 small and medium sized pharmaceutical companies which account for 40 per cent of India's total drug exports will be out of business;
c) whether Government has received any representation from the pharma firms in this regard; and
d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

*****

a) It may be noted that Government initiated track and trace system with an objective to ensure that only quality drugs from genuine source are exported, curb distribution of fake drugs in the guise of ‘made in India’ and also to counter adverse publicity against Indian pharm industry in the international markets. The system for implementation of trace and track barcoding features on tertiary level packaging and secondary level packaging was made effective from 1st October, 2011 and 1st January, 2013. However, there were representations from the industry expressing problems in implementation of barcoding on primary packing, Government considered it favourably and put barcoding on primary packing on hold till further notification. Some of the provisions like barcoding on mono carton, parent-child relationship between primary & secondary packing etc., were made optional. It is also important to say that there were several consultations with the industry stakeholders on this subject before implementation of the system. The effort of the Department of Commerce is to promote exports & brand Pharma India, particularly generic industry.

b to d) It may be noted that though there are more number of exporters under small and medium category, over 85% of Indian Pharma exports are contributed by large scale companies. During consultations with industry stakeholders about implementation of barcoding, some small and medium sized companies represented that they are finding it difficult to implement the same due to requirement of huge investment in machinery for
printing barcoding on labels, which is hitherto done manually by most of the SME exporters and also due to lack of trained personnel to use sophisticated machinery and software of barcoding. In view of the representations received from the industry, Government is examining the request for appropriate action.

*****
1145. SHRI ANIL DESAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether international trade agreements by countries like the one concluded by twelve countries under the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) accounting for 40 per cent of global income will deny Indian exporters easy access to these markets; and

b) if so, what remedial steps Government is taking to provide access to Indian exporters to these markets?

ANSWER

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

*****

a) The negotiations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) have been concluded but the agreement is not yet ratified for implementation by the participating countries. The government is continuously monitoring the developments with regard to Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in close consultation with industry stakeholders.

b) Does not arise.

*****
LIBERALISING TEA ACT TO INCREASE TEA PRODUCTION

1146. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCe AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to liberalize the Tea Act so as to increase tea production and productivity by bringing additional areas under cultivation;

b) if so, the details thereof;

c) whether it is also a fact that Government is yet to receive response from the State Governments in this regard; and

d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

*****

(a) to (d): The Tea Act was enacted in 1953 with the objective of controlling the tea industry pursuant to relevant International agreements and developing the industry as well as production and marketing of tea. As the tea sector has undergone several changes since inception of the Tea Act, 1953, the Law Commission, in its 159th Report has, inter alia, recommended amendment of the Tea Act, 1953. Accordingly, the government undertook an exercise of consulting stakeholders and obtaining their interests and views on the amendments to the Tea Act, 1953. The draft Tea Act amendment prepared in order to liberalise the tea sector and equip the Indian tea industry to face international competition, was made available on the website of the Tea Board for comments/views/suggestions from the public. No response to the public notice was received from the State Governments.

*****
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved six new proposals of Special Economic Zones (SEZs);
b) if so, the details thereof;
c) whether it is also a fact that out of the six proposals cleared, four are from Information Technology and Information Technology enabled services sector; and
d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

 *****  

(a) to (d): Recently, the Board of Approval (BoA) for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in its meetings held on 27.08.2015 and 09.10.2015 has approved eight proposals for setting up of SEZs. Out of eight proposals, five relate to Information Technology/ Information Technology Enabled Services (IT/ITES) sectors and one each relates to Free Trade Warehousing Zone (FTWZ) sector, Biotechnology including Bio-Plastics or other Bio based or Bio-degradable Environment Friendly Products, Pharmaceuticals and Chemical sector and Footwear sector. Details of the proposals is at Annexure-I.
### Proposals for setting up of SEZs approved by Board of Approval (BoA) for SEZs in its meetings held on 27.08.2015 and 09.10.2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of SEZ</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Area (Hectares)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>M/s HCL IT City Lucknow Private Limited</td>
<td>Sultanpur Road, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>Information Technology/ Information Technology Enabled Services (IT/ITES)</td>
<td>40.469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>M/s. North Mumbai International Commodity Township Pvt. Ltd</td>
<td>Thane District, Maharashtra</td>
<td>Free Trade Warehousing Zone (FTWZ)</td>
<td>60.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>M/s Reliable Exports (India) Pvt. Ltd.</td>
<td>Thane Belapur Road Thane, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra</td>
<td>Information Technology/ Information Technology Enabled Services (IT/ITES)</td>
<td>2.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>M/s Loma IT Park, Developers Pvt. Ltd.</td>
<td>Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra</td>
<td>Information Technology/ Information Technology Enabled Services (IT/ITES)</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>M/s Mantri Developers Private Limited</td>
<td>Ranga Reddy District, Telangana</td>
<td>Electronic Hardware and Software including IT/ITES</td>
<td>1.0504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>M/s Aqua Space Developers Pvt. Ltd.</td>
<td>Ranga Reddy District, Telangana</td>
<td>Information Technology/ Information Technology Enabled Services (IT/ITES)</td>
<td>1.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>M/s. Wardha Sakhar Karkhana Ltd.</td>
<td>District Wardha, Maharashtra</td>
<td>Biotechnology including Bio-Plastics or other Bio based or Bio-degradable Environment Friendly Products, Pharmaceuticals and Chemical</td>
<td>86.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>M/s Cheyyar SEZ Developers Pvt. Ltd.</td>
<td>Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>Footwear</td>
<td>58.21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*****
LACK OF ROADS AND DRINKING WATER IN TEA GARDENS IN ASSAM

1148. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether it is a fact that many tea gardens in Assam do not have proper road connectivity and drinking water facilities;

b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;

c) whether Government implements any such scheme or any order passed to the tea garden management to make well connected roads and drinking water facilities available to the labourers; and

d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

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(a) & (b): As most of the tea gardens in Assam are located in remote areas, the infrastructural facilities and connectivity to such areas is at times less than adequate. However, the Plantation Labour Act, (PLA) 1951 mandates the tea estates to provide basic welfare services and amenities e.g. housing, health facilities and primary education, water supply, sanitation etc. to the tea workers. Simultaneously, the construction and maintenance of the roads outside the tea gardens is undertaken by the State Governments. The facilities to be provided under the PLA are also monitored and governed by the concerned State Government.

(c) & (d): Tea Board implements programmes for Human Resource Development (HRD) under the XII Plan Scheme namely, Tea Development & Promotion Scheme. The HRD component is aimed at filling in critical gaps in the welfare of tea garden workers, particularly in health and education sector. A sum of Rs.50.00 crores has also been earmarked under the HRD component for the XII Plan period for Gap Funding to the State Governments in the major tea growing States in order to align with their activities through National Level Welfare Schemes implemented in tea gardens.

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1181. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether Pakistan has granted India the status of Most Favoured Nation (MFN), if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

b) the details of bilateral trade done between India and Pakistan during each of the last three years and current year; and

c) what are the steps taken by Government to get Pakistan grant India the status of Most Favoured Nation?

ANSWER

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

*****

(a) No Sir. During the 7th round of talks on Commercial and Economic Cooperation between Commerce Secretaries of India and Pakistan held in Islamabad on September 20-21, 2012 it was agreed, inter-alia that Pakistan would transition fully to MFN (non-discriminatory) status for India by December, 2012. Pakistan, however, did not adhere to the timelines.

(b) The details of bilateral trade between India and Pakistan during last 3 years and the current year, are given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Export</th>
<th>Import</th>
<th>Total Trade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>2064.79</td>
<td>541.87</td>
<td>2606.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>2274.26</td>
<td>426.88</td>
<td>2701.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>1857.18</td>
<td>497.31</td>
<td>2354.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16*</td>
<td>883.96</td>
<td>265.53</td>
<td>1149.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Provisional

Source: Export Import Data Bank of D/o Commerce and DGCIS, Kolkata
Government of Pakistan has not been able to adhere to its commitments of removing the trade restrictions on the land route, as well as the granting of MFN status to India as agreed during the 7th Commerce Secretary level talks held in September 2012. During the meeting between Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan on 27th May 2014, it was stated that the two countries could move immediately towards full trade normalisation on the basis of the September 2012 roadmap.

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