HIGH YIELDING VARIETY OF ROBUSTA AND ARABICA COFFEE PLANTS

1601. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) whether the Central Coffee Research Institute has come up with any new high yielding and disease resistance varieties of Robusta and Arabica coffee plants in the recent past;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to meet the coffee growers' requirement of Robusta clonal planting material and also to enhance the low and stagnating productivity levels of coffee in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Yes Sir, the Central Coffee Research Institute (CCRI) of Coffee Board is releasing high yielding and disease resistant varieties of Arabica and Robusta from time to time. In Arabica, ‘Chandragiri’ a semi-dwarf variety with high degree of field tolerance to leaf rust disease and high yield potential has been released for commercial cultivation during 2007-08 season. In addition, three genotypes of Arabica have been given for multi-location trials in growers’ field during 2014-15. In Robusta, the improved hybrid variety already developed by CCRI is most preferred among the growers because of its high yield potential and quality of beans. Further research for development of drought resistant variety of Robusta has been taken up by CCRI.

(c): CCRI has developed and refined the clonal propagation techniques and has supplied around 1,62,000 rooted clones of hybrid variety to the growers’ from 2014-15 onwards. Training programmes are organized to build the capacity of growers in clonal production methods. Clonal nurseries have been set up in about 10 estates with the technical support of CCRI. Efforts are being made to involve the unemployed youth and self-help groups for clonal multiplication of Robusta coffee.
Coffee Board is also implementing Integrated Coffee Development Project under which various interventions such as research & development, technology transfer, capacity building, replacing the old unproductive varieties with improved high yielding/disease tolerant varieties, water augmentation and mechanization etc. are undertaken for the overall improvement of production, productivity and quality of coffee.
SAFEGUARDING INDIA'S FISHERIES INTEREST AT WTO MEET

1602. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) whether India is getting ready to safeguard the livelihood of its million strong fisherfolk population, when the WTO Ministerial meets next year for disciplining the global fisheries subsidies;
(b) whether Government has formed an Inter-Ministerial Task Force to work upon a position that India needs to take at the WTO Ministerial meet next year; and
(c) whether India would be vigilant at the WTO meet especially over the issues relating to containing illegal, unreported/unregulated fishing and getting special and differential treatment at the Ministerial decisions?

ANSWER

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

***

(a) to (c): Government of India (GOI) has constituted an Inter-Ministerial task force under the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries in the Ministry of Agriculture, with the responsibility to work out specific strategies required from time to time for India’s constructive interventions in the WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies. GOI had reiterated before the WTO Negotiating Group on Rules (NGR), its stand on the need for Special & Differential (S&D) Treatment for the developing countries in line with the Ministerial Decisions under Doha Development Agenda in 2001 and the Hong Kong Ministerial Meet of 2005. Flexibilities, particularly for the artisanal, poor and subsistence fishermen, is the major element of India’s interventions in these negotiations.

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1604
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH NOVEMBER, 2016

OBJECTIVES OF RUBBER BOARD

1604. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) the primary objectives of the Rubber Board;
(b) the names of the schemes/projects/programmes under implementation by the Rubber Board for promotion of rubber plantation and marketing; and
(c) the Budgetary allocation under Plan Head of the Rubber Board during 2014-15 and 2015-16?

ANSWER

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

***

(a) The primary objectives of the Rubber Board, as envisaged in the Rubber Act, 1947, are to provide for the development of the rubber industry through activities which inter alia includes support for production, extension, scientific research and marketing besides regulatory functions.

(b) Rubber Board is currently implementing the scheme “Sustainable and Inclusive Development of Natural Rubber Sector” wherein support is provided for plantation development and extension, strengthening research, technology upgradation and market development, human resource development etc.

(c) The budgetary allocations under Plan Head of Rubber Board during 2014-15 and 2015-16 were Rs. 150.00 Crore and Rs. 153.99 Crore respectively.

******
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1605
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH NOVEMBER, 2016

IMPACT OF DECREASING EXPORTS ON JOBS

1605. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) whether it is a fact that the trade body ASSOCHAM has estimated that decreasing exports have cost seventy thousand jobs in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) what remedial measures Government proposes to take to reverse the trend?

ANSWER

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

***

(a) & (b) A joint study undertaken by ‘The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India’ (ASSOCHAM) and Thought Arbitrage on ‘Employment Generation and Rebooting India’ have reported inter-alia sharp drop in merchandise exports in eight sectors (textile, leather, metals, automobiles, gems and jewellery, transport, IT/BPO, and handloom/powerloom) leading to a loss of 70,000 jobs of contractual workers during the second quarter of 2015-16 due to slowdown in global demand. However, the said report further states that there was increased employment in direct category workers (regular workers) in these eight sectors during the second and third quarter of 2015-16, which is a positive development and compensated that loss. Textile sector is reported to be most affected.

(c) The Government has taken various measures to boost exports from India including Textile sector, which includes:

(i) Implementing the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) under Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 w.e.f. April 1, 2015. MEIS is a major export promotion scheme being implemented by Ministry of Commerce and Industry with an objective to incentivize export of merchandise which are produced/manufactured in India. Rewards under MEIS are payable as a percentage of realized FOB value of covered exports, by way of the MEIS duty
credit scrip, which are transferable and can also be used for payment of a number of duties including the basic customs duty. Presently, 7914 tariff lines at 8 digit ITC (HS) Codes are covered under MEIS scheme. For the fiscal year 2016-17, Rs. 23,000 Crore have been allocated for MEIS incentives.

(ii) Launching of Services Exports from India Scheme (SEIS) in the FTP 2015-20, which provided rewards to service providers of notified services from India. The rate of reward under the scheme are based on net foreign exchange earned and varies from 3% and 5%.

(iii) Implementation of the Niryat Bandhu Scheme with an objective to reach out to the new and potential exporters and mentor them through orientation programmes, counseling sessions, individual facilitation, etc., on various aspects of foreign trade for being able to get into international trade and boost exports from India.

(iv) Bringing out a special package called Special Advance Authorisation Scheme w.e.f. 01.09.2016 for Textiles sector which has three main components namely; (a) refund of state levies, (b) duty free import of fabrics and (c) All-Industry rate of drawback for other inputs sourced indigenously under Advance Authorisation. The following action have already been taken by the Government to operationalized the special package:

a) The CBEC Circular No.43/2016-Cus 20th September 2016 has operationalized Rebate Of State Levies (RoSL Scheme).

b) Duty free import of fabrics under Advance Authorisation was implemented by the DGFT, Department of Commerce vide Notification No. 21/ dated 11th August, 2016 read with CBEC Notification No.45/ dated 13th Augst2016.

c) The All Industry duty drawback for indigenously sourced inputs under Advance Authorisation was notified by CBEC vide Notification No.131/ dated 31 October, 2016.

(v) The special package announced by the Government for Textile and Apparel sector provides the sector more flexible labour laws and financial incentives.

***
1608. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH:

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

(a) what has been the total value of to and fro trade between India and China during the last three years and how does it compare with country's top five trading partners;

(b) what has been the status of Chinese investments in India during last three years; and

(c) what is being done to further increase country's partnership in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a): Details of India’s trade with China for the last three years and the current year upto September 2016 are given below:-

Bilateral Trade between India and China during 2013-14 to 2015-16 and the current year

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Import</th>
<th>Export</th>
<th>Total Trade</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
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<td>2015-16</td>
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<td>2016-17 (April-September) (P)</td>
<td>29.23</td>
<td>4.01</td>
<td>33.24</td>
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</table>

(P); Provisional

( Source; DGCI&S)

India’s top five export and import partners during the last three years and the current year April-September 2016-17 are attached as Annex-I & II respectively.
Total FDI equity inflow from China during 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and the current year April-September 2016 has been US$ 1,309.00 million. The major sectors of investments are:

- Automobile industry
- Services sector
- Electrical equipment
- Metallurgical industries
- Industrial machinery

To invite Chinese investment in India, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Commerce of PR of China and the Ministry of Commerce & Industry of India has been signed on ‘Cooperation on Industrial Parks in India’ on June 30, 2014 so as to provide a platform for cluster type development of the enterprises of both countries. Subsequently, following MoUs have been signed by State Government Agencies and the Chinese investors for development of Industrial Parks in various States in India as below:

i. MoU between Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), Govt. of Maharashtra and BeiqiFoton Motors, China for Auto Industrial Park in Pune;

ii. MoU between Industrial Extension Bureau (iINDEXTb), Govt. of Gujarat and China Development Bank Corporation (CDB), China for supporting the setting up of Industrial Parks in Gujarat;

iii. MoU between Industrial Extension Bureau (iINDEXTb), Govt. of Gujarat and China Small and Medium Enterprises (Chengdu) Investment Limited (CSME) to set-up multi-purpose Chinese Industrial Park in Gujarat;

iv. MoU between HSIIDC, Govt. of Haryana and Dalian Wanda Group for development of an integrated Entertainment Park-cum-Industrial township in Haryana;

v. MoU between HSIIDC, Govt. of Haryana and China Fortune Land Development (CFLD) for development of an Industrial Park in Haryana.

Awareness of investment opportunities in various sectors in India is created through periodical “Make in India” Road shows in China. Invest India is also facilitating Chinese investments in India.

*****
### YEAR: 2013-14

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<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>VAL</th>
<th>% SHARE</th>
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### YEAR: 2016-17 (APR TO SEP)

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Note: Figures for 2016-17 (Apr to Sep) is provisional.
## India's Top 5 Import Partner

### Annex II

**Values in Million USD**

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<th>Year: 2013-14</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Value</th>
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**Note:** Figures for 2016-17 (Apr to Sep) is provisional.
1609. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government has taken up issue of IT Industry Visa problems directly with US Trade Representative Michael Froman recently;
(b) whether Indian IT professionals are facing severe movement restrictions and targeted discrimination by the US in the last three years;
(c) whether Government has pointed out that such restrictions directly negate the rules governing multilateral trade agreements in force between India and the US;
(d) what was the reaction of US Trade Representative to such direct talks; and
(e) steps proposed to appropriately raise this issue in Washington to implement bilateral and international trade agreements?

ANSWER

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The issue of IT industry visa problems has been taken up with the U.S. Trade Representative, Ambassador Michael Froman, during the Trade Policy Forum meeting in New Delhi on October 20, 2016.

(b) On December 18, 2015, the US President signed into law the 2016 Omnibus Spending Bill (Public Law 114-113) which doubled the supplemental visa fees for L-1 and H-1B visas for a period of 10 years for companies employing 50 or more employees in the United States, 50% or more of which were on L-1 and H-1B visas (50:50 rule). With this legislation in place, 50:50 companies would now need to pay an enhanced fee of $4,500 for each L-1 visa and $4000 for each H-1B visa, as compared to $2,250 and $2000 previously. According to data available from
the US State Department, Indian nationals accounts for 69.43 percent of total H1B visas issued during Fiscal Year 2015.

(c) The matter on US visa fee hike has been raised by India at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Geneva. India had consultations with the United States on 11-12 May 2016 at the WTO, Geneva under WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism. India had raised claims on US measures relating to:

   i. Fees for L-1 and H-1B visas;
   ii. Numerical commitment for H-1B visas.

(d) The US Trade Representative’s position is that the Public Law 114-113 applies uniformly to all companies irrespective of the origin of the company.

(e) Visa related issues of IT industry have been raised with the US Government at various forums, including at the Ministerial dialogues during the Strategic and Commercial Dialogue in August 2016 and the Trade Policy Forum in October 2016.

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IMPACT OF UK'S VISA RULES ON IT PROFESSIONALS

1612. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government has noted the news-item published in an English daily on 5th November, 2016 captioned 'UK's Visa rules to hit Desi techies hard;

(b) whether after 24th November, 2016, Visa rules of United Kingdom for Indian techies (IT), Indian employees cannot switch jobs to another employer;

(c) what are the reasons for Government not taking up the UK's restrictive trade practices affecting India's employees;

(d) steps proposed by Government to oppose UK's restrictive trade practices; and

(e) how will such negative actions by UK affect a potential FTA with United Kingdom?

ANSWER

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

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(a): Yes, Sir. As a result of the changes brought about by the UK Government in their Tier 2 General and ICT Visa Rules, minimum salary threshold has been increased and skills and health surcharge have been imposed.

(b) As regards rules for switching jobs to another employer is concerned, there has been no such change after 24th November 2016.

(c) The Government of India has been taking up this issue consistently with the Government of UK including at the highest levels, urging the UK to address concerns of the industry in the interest of bilateral trade in services between India and UK and its adverse impact not only on Indian IT companies but also on UK’s own economy and competitiveness.
(d): To deal inter-alia, with restrictive trade practices, a new Joint Working Group (JWG) on “Trade” was formed in the 11th India-UK Joint Economic Trade Committee (JETCO) meeting held in New Delhi on 7th November, 2016. The new JWG on ‘Trade’ will focus on measures that could enhance bilateral trade relations and resolve issues which negatively affect our bilateral trade relations with U.K, if any.

(e) These changes are expected to adversely impact the ease of entry and competitiveness of Indian IT companies in the UK thereby negatively impacting bilateral trade relations between the two countries.

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RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1614
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH NOVEMBER, 2016

INDIA'S PHARMACEUTICAL SHARE IN JAPAN

1614. SHRI C. M. RAMESH:

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

(a) what is the share of India's pharmaceutical share in Japan;
(b) whether it is a fact that it is far from below;
(c) what are the reasons that our market in Japan is limited to only active pharmaceutical ingredients; and
(d) how India is going to capitalize Japan's market in the light of Government of Japan's decision to attain 80 per cent share of generic medicines by 2018?

ANSWER

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

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(a) & (b): It is true that our pharmaceutical exports to Japan are not significant. Indian exports of pharmaceuticals to Japan during 2015-16 was only to the tune of 143.83 USD mn. at a growth rate of 1.15%.

(c) & (d): It is highly regulated market and product registrations in Japan are time consuming and tedious. Keeping in view of getting access to Japanese market, Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India in association with Department of Commerce and Department of Health & Family Welfare has been actively promoting Indian generics in Japan by organizing meetings with various associations, regulators and industry. India is also actively participating in CPhI Japan every year. The top Regulators from India and Department of Commerce have been visiting Japan and putting all out efforts to promote Generics in Japan and also to promote the exports of Indian pharmaceuticals including formulations and APIs. In order to enhance cooperation between the two sides, the two regulators viz Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) & Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Agency (PMDA) have signed MOU recently and collaborative events are being held regularly to enhance cooperation.

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1615(H). SHRI SANJAY SETH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) whether Government has taken/ proposes to take preventive measures to deal with the adverse effects on Indian industries due to sale of products made in China and other countries at cheaper rates in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof as on date; and
(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) : Yes Sir.
(b) : As on 28.11.2016, Directorate General of Anti-dumping & Allied Duties (DGAD) initiated 353 anti-dumping cases and in 130 cases, anti-dumping measures are in force. The major products found to have been dumped from China PR and other countries fall in the product group of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Pharmaceuticals, Products of Steel & other metals, Fibre & Yarns and Consumer Goods. On 19.1.2016, Government imposed countervailing duty on imports of Castings for wind-operated electricity generators originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China.
(c) : Does not arise.

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RETENTION OF RESIDUAL LEVELS OF CCL IN GRAPES

1618. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) whether it is a fact that the European Union has agreed to retain the residue levels of chlormequat chloride (CCL), a plant growth regulator at 0.05 papers per million for a period of two years in grapes;
(b) whether it is also a fact that Government had demanded the European Union to retain these CCL levels for a period of at least five years as demanded by the grape growers in the country; and
(c) whether the European Union accounts for the largest share of our grape exports?

ANSWER

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

(a) Yes, Sir.
(b) Yes, Sir.
(c) European Union is the largest importer of Indian Grapes. During 2015-16, the European Union accounted for 60.98% of total Indian exports of grapes.

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1620. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) whether Government has received any representation regarding waiver of restrictions on the export of onions;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) whether Government has taken any decision on this issue, 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). Yes, Sir. The Government keeps receiving representations from Agricultural Associations/Members of Parliament/Legislative Assembly/Individuals etc. from time to time to remove restrictions on the export of onions.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India, in view of huge arrivals of onions in the market, reduced the Minimum Export Price (MEP) on onion export to Zero from USD 400 PMT (FOB) w.e.f. 24th December, 2015.
1621. SHRI K.K. RAGESH:

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

(a) whether the performance and governance of various export promotion councils are regularly reviewed;

(b) if so, the report for such reviews of each export councils conducted during the last three years; and

(c) details of any independent mechanism, programmes or guidelines, if any, adopted to conduct such reviews?

ANSWER

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

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(a) & (b): Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) are industry bodies created to promote exports. The Management Committee of the Councils review the performance of the EPCs. Representatives of the Government of India are nominated in the Management Committee of such Councils to facilitate interaction with the exporters and assess performance of the Councils. The review reports of performance of EPCs are laid in the Parliament on annual basis.

(c): The Department of Commerce regularly interact with the Councils to identify and address interventions for promoting exports. This is an on-going exercise

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1623. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) whether there is any proposal to issue advisories to traders and people of country to boycott Chinese products in Indian market; and
(b) if so, the details thereof and when any such advisory will be issued?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): No Sir. India and China are members of the WTO and therefore any restriction imposed on trade needs to be WTO compliant.
1624. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) the details of countries implementing stimulus programmes and details of stimulus packages given by each of such countries;
(b) how Ministry is planning to take advantage of such stimulus and boost country's exports;
(c) to what extent strengthening of rupee will impact exports; and
(d) whether Ministry has asked to devalue rupee to boost exports and reasons behind RBI's refusal to do so?

ANSWER

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

(a): The stimulus packages are undertaken by countries with the objective of providing impetus for economic recovery and stability. These measures, inter alia, include reducing taxes, boosting consumer spending, infrastructure development, employment generation and improvement in competitiveness. As a result of implementation of these packages exports are exported to get a boost. Since 2008, many countries, especially USA, EU, Japan, Indonesia, etc. have implemented stimulus packages.

(b): The Government has also introduced a number of measures for boosting exports and these include reduction and simplification of documents; online filing of export declarations with digital signatures; electronic messaging; web-based handling of receipts; 24X7 customs clearance facilities at major sea ports and air cargo complexes; setting up of Customs Clearance Facilitation Committees; enhanced coverage of Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS); advanced authorization benefits for exports; interest equalization of 3% on all exports from MSME sector and notified exports from other sectors.

(c)&(d): There are many factors that influence exports including demand intensity, market share, price elasticity, valuation of other currencies etc. Department of Commerce had suggested a fair valuation of rupee keeping in view the global market situation. The Government and the Reserve Bank of India(RBI) are closely monitoring the situation including exchange rate of rupee in nominal and real terms and macroeconomic policies.