RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 234
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07TH DECEMBER, 2016

LOGISTICS CHALLENGES TO BOOST EXPORTS

*234. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) whether it is a fact that Government is working on addressing key problems of exporters related to logistics, cost and taxation to boost the country’s outbound shipments;
(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has started the review of the Foreign Trade Policy with an aim to do mid-course corrections in the export schemes, if required;
(c) whether logistics is one of the biggest issues and it makes the cost competitiveness produced by an efficient exporter, unviable; and
(d) whether priority of Government has been to cut down on the logistics challenges?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA
SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 234 FOR ANSWER ON 07th DECEMBER, 2016
REGARDING “LOGISTICS CHALLENGES TO BOOST EXPORTS”

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Government effects changes in the Foreign Trade Policy as and when need arises.

(c) and (d) Logistics costs account for a significant part of the Indian non services GDP. In World Bank’s Logistics Performance Index (LPI), India’s ranking has improved from 47th in 2014 to 35th in 2016. The Government of India has launched the Sagarmala Programme to reduce logistics cost for both domestic and EXIM cargo with minimal infrastructure investment. The shelf of projects has been identified and is being implemented under Sagarmala for improving the overall logistics efficiency and competitiveness of exports of the country.

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MEASURES TO CHECK FALL IN EXPORTS

*239(H). SHRI HARIVANSH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) the steps taken by Government to stop steadily decreasing exports and the results achieved;
(b) the kind of losses India is likely to incur due to exit of Britain from European Union; and 
(c) the strategy of Government to deal with recession in world market and the problems coming in the way of growth of the manufacturing sector?

ANSWER

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

***

(a) to (c):  A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
(a). The Government has launched several schemes and included measures to increase India’s exports as follows:

(i) The Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) was introduced in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 on April 1, 2015 with the objective to offset infrastructural inefficiencies and associated costs involved in exporting goods from India and to provide a level playing field to Indian exporters, especially those having high export intensity and employment potential. The Scheme incentivizes exporters in terms of freely transferable Duty Credit Scrips which are transferable and can be used to pay Central duties/taxes including customs duties. The Scheme covers exports of 7914 tariff lines at 8 digit levels to all countries.

(ii) The Government launched Services Exports from India Scheme (SEIS) w.e.f. 1.4.2015 under the FTP 2015-2020. The Scheme provides rewards at the rate of 3 to 5% on Net Foreign Exchange earnings, to service providers of notified services from India to rest of the world, in the form of Duty Credit Scrips which are transferable and can be used to pay Central duties/taxes including customs duties.

(iii) Interest Equalization Scheme has been introduced w.e.f 01.04.2015 for five years with an objective to provide affordable credit to exporters to enable them to be more competitive. The scheme is available to 416 specified tariff lines and exports made by manufacturing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) across all sectors. The rate of interest equalization is 3% per annum.

(iv) The Government continues to provide the facility of access to duty free raw materials and capital goods to provide support for manufacture and export of commodities through schemes like Advance Authorization, Duty Free Import Authorization (DFIA), Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) and drawback / refund of duties.

(v) The Government is implementing 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.

(vi) By way of trade facilitation and enhancing the ease of doing business, Government has 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 export promotion related schemes. Online payment of application fees through Credit/Debit cards and electronic funds transfer from 53 Banks has been put in place.

(b): India has established several institutional mechanisms with European Union and also with member countries to facilitate smooth flow of trade and investment. The loss from the proposed exit of Britain from European Union on India is expected to be minimal considering its sound macro-economic fundamentals, comfortable foreign exchange reserves, commitment to fiscal discipline and declining inflation. The Government and the RBI are closely monitoring the emerging external situation due to exit of Britain from the European Union to take appropriate policies as and when required.

(c): Government has been taking steps to boost industrial production and growth. These inter-alia, include ‘Make in India’ initiative under which thrust sectors have been identified to provide a push to manufacturing in India, ‘Start-up India’ and ‘Ease of Doing Business’. Steps taken to improve the ease of doing business include simplification and rationalisation of existing rules and introduction of information technology. Further, Investor Facilitation Cell, launch of e-biz Portal and liberalising Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy and procedures, industrial license for defence industries have been simplified and liberalised progressively. Several industrial corridors have been launched to provide developed land and quality infrastructure for development of industrial townships.

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2401(H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07TH DECEMBER, 2016

EXPORT OF MARINE FOOD PRODUCTS

2401(H). SHRIMATI MISHA BHARTI:
SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) the status of marine food products exported from the country during last three years;
(b) whether the US is the major destination for such exports;
(c) whether the US has imposed certain conditions on import of marine food products from India and if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether Government provides subsidy on such exports; and
(e) the action plan to promote such exports to improve the economic condition of people living along coastal areas of the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) The export of marine products from India reached an all time record both in terms of quantity and value in 2014-15. The exports touched 1051243 MT worth Rs. 33441.61 Crores and US dollar 5.51 billion in 2014-15. However in 2015-16, there was a decline in exports due to reasons such as increased supply of farmed shrimps from our competitors in Southeast Asia which led to a decline in unit trade value of shrimp, weaker economic condition in China and devaluation of certain currencies such as Euro, Japanese Yen and decline in sea catches. Our export figures declined by 10% in quantity i.e., 9,45892 tons and 14.9% in value ie US$ 4.68 billion in 2015-16. However in 2016-17, up to September 2016, the export has shown an increase of 2% in quantity and 12% in US$ earnings and 15% in Indian rupee value compared to same period of last year. The status of Marine food Products Exported from India for the last three years is as follows:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2013-14</th>
<th>2014-15</th>
<th>2015-16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quantity (in M Ton)</td>
<td>983756</td>
<td>1051243</td>
<td>945892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value (in Rs. Crore)</td>
<td>30213.26</td>
<td>33441.61</td>
<td>30420.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Values in US Dollar Million</td>
<td>5007.70</td>
<td>5511.12</td>
<td>4687.94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(b) Yes Sir. US is the major destination for Indian marine products with a share of 28.46% in foreign exchange earnings.

(c) Yes Sir. Based on the representations of Southern Shrimp Producers Alliance, the association of local shrimp producers in USA, the US DOC after its investigation has initiated anti-dumping duty on shrimp imports from India since 2004. The initial anti dumping duty imposed was 10.17%, which was reviewed subsequently. So far 10 Administrative Reviews have been conducted. The present antidumping duty after the 10th administrative review is set at 2.20%. Meanwhile, the US authorities has initiated Second Sunset Review of Antidumping / countervailing Duty by September 2016.

(d) No Sir. Government does not provide subsidies on exports.

(e) The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) gives financial assistance to promote exports from the country, which indirectly benefit the economy of the people living in coastal areas since majority of the employees involved in the production and processing is from the coastal areas. Assistance for promotional expenditure for value added marine products bearing MPEDA Quality Logo, which helps to create a brand image for Indian seafood in International markets financial assistance for technology upgradation for value addition, cold chain development, assistance for mini lab for ensuring quality and Harbour development are the other major schemes implemented by MPEDA.

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RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2404
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07TH DECEMBER, 2016

IMPORT OF GM CANOLA PRODUCTS

2404. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) what are the regulatory requirements for import of GM canola products into India as required under the Foreign Trade Act;
(b) whether GM canola imports have conformed to these regulations; and
(c) if so, the details of applicants who declared GM canola imports, year-wise and what were the specific consignments?

ANSWER

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

***

(a) to (c): The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) approves the proposal related to import/export of oils, as per the Rules for the manufacture, use/import/export and storage of hazardous microorganisms/ genetically engineered organisms or cells 1989 (Rules 1989) made under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

The GEAC in its 124th meeting held on 3rd September, 2015 had considered application submitted by M/s Bayer Bioscience Pvt. Ltd. related to import of Canola oil derived from herbicide tolerant canola (Event Ms8xRF3). The committee approved for import of Canola oil derived from herbicide tolerant canola (Event Ms8xRF3).

The information on import of GM Canola Oil is not available as there is no separate HS Code for this item. However, India’s total import of vegetable oil during 2015-16 is 15.6 million MT for a value of $10492.1 million and the figure during 2016-17 (Apr-Aug) is 5.6 million MT for a value of $4207.6 million.

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

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2405  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07TH DECEMBER, 2016  

ILLEGAL IMPORT OF GM CANOLA OIL

2405. SHRI D. RAJA:  
SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:  

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:  
(a) what is the proportion or percentage of imported GM canola oil within India’s total oil consumption, in value and volume;  
(b) whether GM canola oil imports were permitted by Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) before 2015;  
(c) if so, the details of additional permissions accorded; and  
(d) if not, what action is being taken for illegal import of GM canola oil that happened without the permission of GEAC?

ANSWER

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

(a) The information on import of GM Canola oil is not available separately. However, India’s total imports of vegetable oil in terms of value and volume (quantity) are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Quantity (Millions Tonnes)</th>
<th>Value (US$ Millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>10492.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>6212.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Provisional

(b) to (d): Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) has recently approved one application for import of GM Canola Oil derived from herbicide tolerant canola (Event Ms8xRF3).

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RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2407
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07TH DECEMBER, 2016

WELFARE OF TEA GARDEN LABOURERS IN ASSAM

2407. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is responsible for welfare of tea garden labourers in Assam;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) how many special schemes have been introduced/implemented for tea garden labourers by the Ministry in the current year so far; and
(d) how much funds have been allocated to the above mentioned schemes for the current year?

ANSWER

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

***

(a)& (b): The working conditions of tea garden workers in the country, including Assam, are governed by the Plantation Labour Act (PLA), 1951, administered by Ministry of Labour & Employment and enforced by the concerned state government, which, inter alia, provides for basic welfare services and amenities e.g. housing, medical and primary education, water supply, sanitation etc. Certain welfare activities for tea plantation workers and their dependents in tea estates are also undertaken by the Tea Board under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

(c) & (d): There are no special schemes introduced for tea garden labourers by this Ministry in the current year. However, welfare activities undertaken by the Tea Board under the Human Resource Development (HRD) component of Tea Development and Promotion Scheme are aimed at improving the health and hygiene of workers, education of wards of workers and imparting training to improve skills for growers/workers. An amount of Rs.5.53 Cr. has been allocated in the HRD component for the current financial year till date.

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RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2408
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07TH DECEMBER, 2016

ESTABLISHMENT OF AQUA ZONES

2408. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) whether India International Seafood Show-2016 has been held recently in Visakhapatnam, if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Central Government is planning to increase seafood production and develop fishery industry in the State of Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Central Government is planning to establish Aqua Zones in Andhra Pradesh with this objective, if so, the details of the places identified for this purpose; and
(d) the quantum of funds earmarked and proposed to be released in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) Yes Sir. The 20th edition of India International Seafood Show 2016 was successfully organized by the Marine Products Export Development Authority and Seafood Exporters Association of India from 23rd to 25th September, 2016 at Port Trust, Diamond Jubilee Stadium, Visakhapatnam which was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of State of Commerce & Industry and the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Various Central Government Cabinet Ministers and State Ministers of Andhra Pradesh also attended the inaugural function. The theme of the Show was Safe and Sustainable Indian Aquaculture where technological advances and sustainable practices followed in capture and culture fisheries to ensure quality of seafood for both domestic and export markets were showcased. 1524 delegates from India and abroad and more than 6500 visitors attended the show.

(b) Yes Sir. Department of Commerce through its Autonomous Organization i.e. the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has been implementing various schemes for development of aquaculture of export oriented species in all maritime states including Andhra Pradesh. The schemes included assistance for setting up of hatcheries, assistance to farms, assistance for cage culture and aqua societies. The assistance is extended at the rate of 25% of capital cost actually incurred subject to certain limits under each scheme. Apart from the above, MEPDA-RGCA is assisting the State Governments in promoting aquaculture.

(c) MPEDA has not made any plans for establishing Aqua Zones in Andhra Pradesh.

d) Does not arise.
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2409(H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07TH DECEMBER, 2016

DECLINE IN IMPORT OF GOLD

2409(H). SHRI P.L. PUNIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) whether it is a fact that import of gold in the country has witnessed a decline since March, 2016, if so, the month-wise details thereof;
(b) the reasons for decline in import of gold and efforts being made by Government to improve the situation, the details thereof; and
(c) the extent to which employment was hit on account of decline in import of gold, the details thereof?

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

(a) The details of import of gold during the period from March 2016 to October 2016 are as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>IMPORT OF GOLD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>QTY (TON)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR-16</td>
<td>26.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR-16</td>
<td>31.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY-16</td>
<td>46.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUN-16</td>
<td>39.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUL-16</td>
<td>26.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUG-16</td>
<td>25.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEP-16</td>
<td>50.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT-16</td>
<td>99.62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DGCI&S

The imports during September and October 2016 are showing an upward trend.

(b)& (c) Question does not arise.
2414. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCe AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) whether globalization, from the country's experience is on the rise or wane during the last five years;
(b) which way the trends in international trade, migration and banking activities point to;
(c) whether it is a fact that globalization measures have promoted interests of very few while those of vast majority have been affected very badly; and
(d) since there are various reports to show that vast majority of population has been detrimentally affected, whether Government will review its policy on globalization?

ANSWER

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

(a) The degree of trade openness is one of the indicators for measuring globalization. India’s merchandise trade to GDP ratio has increased from 20.4 per cent in 2001-02 to 28.3 per cent in 2004-05 and to 32.0 per cent in 2015-16. If services trade is also included, then the degree of openness increased from 26.7 per cent in 2001-02 to 38.1 per cent in 2004-05 and further to 43.5 per cent in 2015-16.

(b) The global slowdown had some impact on various aspects of economic activities including exports from India which declined by 0.2 percent during 2016-17 (April-October). Recently, exports showed signs of revival in September 2016 and October 2016 with a positive growth of
4.0 per cent and 9.6 per cent respectively. The World Economic Outlook of October 2016 by the International Monetary Fund states that the growth in India is robust and has predicted resilient growth for emerging markets and developing economies.

(c) & (d) The effects of globalization vary from country to country and from time to time. India’s economic liberalization has been calibrated and cautious especially in sensitive sectors such as agriculture. The government constantly reviews its economic policies to ensure that the objective of inclusive growth is achieved. In multilateral forums, the effort is to achieve results which safeguard the interests of the poor.

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RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2415
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07\textsuperscript{TH} DECEMBER, 2016

IMPACT OF DEMONETISATION ON IITF, 2016

2415. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA:

Will the Minister of \textbf{COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY} be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that demonetisation of currency is the major reason for the decline in footfall at the India International Trade Fair, 2016;

(b) whether any traders (both Indian and foreign) have demanded compensation from Government for the dip in sale due to demonetisation of currency; and

(c) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Government to ensure that these traders come back to the exhibition in the coming years?

\textbf{ANSWER}

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

\textbf{***}

(a) : ITPO has reported that during the India International Trade Fair, 2016, there was a footfall of 1.4 Million as compared to 1.8 Million during India International Trade Fair, 2015 and 1.0 Million in the India International Trade Fair, 2014. There could be many reasons for the decline in footfall this year compared to last year, including free admission to children below 12 years (not requiring a separate entry permit) etc.

(b) : No Sir.

Till date no trader (both Indian and Foreign) has claimed compensation from Government for a dip in sale due to demonetization of currency.

(c) : Doesn’t arise.

\textbf{***}
INCREASE IN TRADE DEFICIT

2417. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that trade deficit of the country has gone up from 9.6 billion dollars in October last year to 10.1 billion dollars in October, 2016;
(b) whether it is also a fact that the increase in trade deficit is mainly on account of unprecedented rise in gold imports during the corresponding period; and
(c) if so, the action Government proposes to reduce the trade deficit?

ANSWER

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

(a) The trade deficit on account of merchandise trade of the country has gone up from 9.7 US$ billions in October last year to 10.4 US$ billions in October, 2016. However, the overall trade deficit including trade in services has decreased by 52.91% in April-October 2016-17 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) Total trade deficit and value of import of gold during October, 2016 are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Import value of gold</th>
<th>% growth in import of gold</th>
<th>Trade Deficit</th>
<th>% growth in trade deficit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 2015</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2016 *</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>108.4</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (* Provisional)

The import of gold has increased by 108.4% in October, 2016 as compared to corresponding period of previous year and the trade deficit increased by 7.4% in Oct, 2016 as compared to Oct 2015.
(c) The Government has launched several schemes for promoting exports and thereby reducing trade deficit as follows:

(i) The Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) was introduced in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 on April 1, 2015 with 4914 tariff lines at 8 digit levels. The Government has extended the market coverage to all countries in respect of 7914 tariff lines. The revenue forgone under the scheme (MEIS) has increased from Rs. 22000 Crore to Rs. 23500 Crore per annum.

(ii) The Government launched Services Exports from India Scheme (SEIS) in the FTP 2015-2020. The Scheme provided rewards to service providers of notified services who are providing service from India.

(iii) The Government is implementing the Niryat Bandhu Scheme with an objective to reach out to the new and potential exporters including exporters from Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and mentor them through orientation programmes, counselling sessions, individual facilitation, etc., on various aspects of foreign trade for being able to get into international trade and boost exports from India.

(iv) 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 funds transfer from 53 Banks has been put in place.

(v) Interest Equalization Scheme on pre & post shipment credit launched to provide cheaper credit to exporters.

(vi) Further, the Government continues to provide the facility of access to duty free raw materials and capital goods for exports through schemes like Advance Authorization, Duty Free Import Authorization (DFIA), Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) and drawback / refund of duties.

***
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2418
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07TH DECEMBER, 2016

IMPLEMENTATION OF NPOP

2418. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) whether Government has implemented the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP), if so, the objectives of NPOP;
(b) whether Government has prescribed standards for organic production, if so, the standards prescribed for production of pulses;
(c) in which part(s) of the country organic pulses are produced;
(d) the quantum of organic pulses produced in the country during the last three years; and
(e) whether there is any procedure to check genuineness of organic pulses, if so, the details thereof along with the details of laboratories where organic pulses can be tested?

ANSWER

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

(a) Ministry of Commerce has implemented the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) since 2001. The objectives of NPOP are as under:

1) To provide the means of evaluation of certification programme for organic agriculture and products (including wild harvest, aquaculture, livestock products) as per the approved criteria.

2) To accredit certification programmes of Certification Bodies seeking accreditation.

3) To facilitate certification of organic products in conformity with the prescribed standards.

4) To facilitate certification of organic products in conformity with the importing countries organic standards as per equivalence agreement between the two countries or as per importing country requirements.

5) To encourage the development of organic farming and organic processing.
(b) The standards of Organic Crop Production have been described in Appendix 1 of Chapter 3 of NPOP document. The production standards include crop production plan, conversion requirement, nutrient management, disease management etc for agricultural crops. There are no separate prescribed production standards for pulses.

(c) The organic pulses certified under NPOP are being cultivated in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh/Telengana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, H.P, Odisha and Punjab.

(d) The certified production of organic pulses under NPOP, including in conversion, for the last three years is as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Production in MT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>39444.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>34717.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>39248.63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: APEDA

(e) Any agricultural product certified as organic under NPOP has to be certified by an accredited certification body under NPOP for exports. As per the inspection and certification procedures as prescribed under chapter 4 clause 4.3 of the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) Document, the Certification Bodies accredited under NPOP conduct inspection before certifying the operators as organic. After inspection and compliance to the requirement by the certified operators, certification decision is taken by the Certification Body and Scope Certificate is issued having a validity of one year.

Organic products are traded only through issuance of Transaction Certificates (TCs) wherein the product identity and traceability is maintained. The TCs are also issued only by the accredited Certification Bodies. All the handlers of the product in the supply chain are required to be in the certification system under NPOP and need to obtain TC whenever the product is traded.

As prescribed under NPOP Chapter 4, clause 4.3.1.4 under Analysis and Residue Testing, the testing is to be carried out in ISO 17025 accredited and preferably APEDA approved laboratories. The list of APEDA approved laboratories is at Annexure-I

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the Laboratory</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>First Source Laboratory Solutions LLP, Hyderabad</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>National Collateral Management Services Limited (NCML), Hyderabad</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Intertek India Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Vimta Labs Ltd., Hyderabad</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Accurate Laboratory, Ahmedabad</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>SGS India Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Testtex India Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., Rajkot</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>International Testing Centre, Panchkula</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>SGS India Pvt. Ltd., Gurgaon</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>TUV Sud South Asia Pvt. Ltd. Gurgaon</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Auriga Research Limited, Bangalore</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Eurofins Analytical Services India Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Shriram Institute for Industrial Research, Bangalore</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>TUV Sud South Asia Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Interfield Laboratories, Kochi</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Ashwamedh Engineers &amp; Consultants, Nashik</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Centre for Food Testing, Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University, Pune</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Envirocare Labs Pvt. Ltd., Thane</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Geo Chem Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>MAARC Labs Pvt. Ltd., Pune</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>MicroChem Silliker Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>National Horticultural Research &amp; Development Foundation (NHRDF), Pesticide Residue</td>
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<td>Analysis Laboratory, Nashik</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Reliable Analytical Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., Thane</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>TUV India Pvt. Ltd., Pune</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Choksi Laboratories Limited, Indore</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Arbro Pharmaceuticals Limited, New Delhi</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Delhi Test House, Delhi</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Shriram Institute for Industrial Research, Delhi</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Punjab Biotechnology Incubator (PBTI), SAS Nagar, Mohali</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Chennai Mettex Lab Private Limited, Chennai</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Mats India Private Limited, Chennai</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Nawal Analytical Laboratories, Hosur</td>
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<td>SGS India Pvt. Ltd., Chennai</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>T A Labs Private Limited, Chennai</td>
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<td>SMS Labs Services Private Limited, Chennai</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>AES Laboratories (P) Ltd., Gautam Budha Nagar</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>DNA Testing Laboratory, Basmati Export Development Foundation (BEDF), Meerut</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>Edward Food Research &amp; Analysis Centre Ltd. (EFRAC), Kolkata</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>SGS India Private Limited, Kolkata</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2420
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07TH DECEMBER, 2016

SETTING UP OF 259 IT/ITES SEZS

2420. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to set 259 Special Economic Zones relating to IT/ITES/Electronic Hardware Sectors in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
(c) whether Government has fixed any target to provide employment through these Special Economic Zones relating to IT/ITES/Electronic Hardware Sectors in the country; and
(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

***

(a) and (b): As on date, Government has approved 259 proposals for setting up of SEZ relating to Information Technology/Information Technology Enabled Services (IT/ITES)/Electronic Hardware sectors in the Country. States/UTs-wise details of these SEZs are at Annexure.

(c) and (d): No Sir, the Government has not fixed any target as such to provide employment through these Special Economic Zones as these are private investment driven. However, as on 30.09.2016, an employment for about 16.88 lakh persons has been generated in different SEZs and an investment of Rs. 4,06,690 crore has been made.

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### States/UTs-wise details of these SEZs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States/UTs</th>
<th>Information Technology/Information Technology Enabled Services (IT/ITES)/ Electronic Hardware</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chandigarh</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chhattisgarh</td>
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<td>Delhi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goa</td>
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<td>Gujarat</td>
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<td>Haryana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karnataka</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
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<td>Maharashtra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manipur</td>
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<tr>
<td>Odisha</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Punjab</td>
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<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telangana</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>259</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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REJECTION OF INDIA'S APPEAL ON SOLAR CELL MANUFACTURING BY WTO

2421. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI:
SHRI ANIL DESAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) whether the World Trade Organisation (WTO) upheld its earlier ruling and has rejected India's appeal against domestic content requirements for manufacturing solar cells and modules;
(b) whether the WTO has also agreed that the rules discriminated against the U.S. manufacturers; and
(c) if so, what remedial steps Government is taking to protect indigenous manufacturers?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) : The WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) has ruled that the Domestic Content Requirement (DCR) under Phase I and Batch I & Batch II of Phase II of India’s Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) programs is inconsistent with WTO Agreement as it discriminates between the products manufactured domestically and the imported products.

(c) : India does not have enough manufacturing capacity currently for cells and modules to match with the entire domestic requirements. Government of India has provided a number of schemes for the purpose of extending support to the domestic manufacturers. Some of them are related to extension of concessional excise and custom duties, provision of capital subsidies for setting up of manufacturing units for solar cells and modules and the entire value chain under Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS) programme etc.