2237. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) whether it is a fact that the services trade was on top of India's agenda during World Trade Organisations chief's visit to the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether Government held any discussion with the chief of WTO on the above issue; and
(d) if so, the deliberations made in the said meeting?

ANSWER

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

***

(a) to (d): During the visit of Mr. Roberto Azevêdo, Director General, World Trade Organization to India in February 2017, a meeting was held in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, during which Services Trade and other issues of India's interest were discussed. India has recently tabled a proposal in the WTO for an Agreement on Trade Facilitation in Services (TFS). A team of capital based officers have also visited Geneva for discussion on the issues of India’s interest, including the TFS.

***
Go to Comment on Image
Yes, Sir. The Government has introduced the Interest Equalisation Scheme on Pre & Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit with effect from 1.4.2015. The scheme is available to manufacturers for all exports under 416 specified tariff lines [at ITC (HS) Codes at 4 digit level] and to exports made by manufacturers in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises across all ITC (HS) Codes. The rate of interest equalisation is 3% per annum. This scheme provides the facility of affordable credit to exporters and enables them to be more competitive.

Though there was a demand for extending the benefit of 3% interest equalisation to Merchant Exporters, the benefit of 3% interest equalisation was not extended to Merchant Exporters as a policy decision. No cash withdrawal facility is available under Interest Equalisation Scheme.

As such there is no information available with the Government.

****
EXPIRATION OF LICENSE FOR IMPORT OF RESTRICTED GOODS

2239. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) if Bill of Entry of a restricted good has been filed by importer before expiry of license but original license is lost during custom clearance process and license gets expired during this process whether goods can be confiscated by customs in absence of duplicate and extended validity license issued by DGFT, Udyog Bhawan as license is expired; and

(b) whether it has some chance to be released subject to certain conditions?

ANSWER

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

(a): Customs enforces the rules, regulations and orders issued by various administrative Ministries. Non-production of the valid license at the time of Customs clearance for goods restricted for import/export under the Foreign Trade Policy and other allied Acts render such goods liable to confiscation in the case of imports, under Sections 111(d) of the Customs Act, 1962.

(b): Confiscated goods are subject to penal provisions of the Customs Act, 1962. The release of the restricted goods will be subject to the nature of goods and fulfillment of conditions laid down in the import policy or by the administrative Ministry.

***
2240. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) whether Government has received proposals on bilateral trade from the neighbouring countries;
(b) if so, the details thereof along with the terms and conditions; and
(c) the measures taken/being taken by Government to enhance cross-border trade with a view to promote economic growth and employment in the region?

ANSWER

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

***

(a) to (c): The Government continues to engage pro-actively with SAARC countries to strengthen trade and economic relations. Issues impacting bilateral trade, raised by these countries, are taken up for an early resolution. Discussions are held with these countries at bilateral/multilateral level from time to time, to explore mechanisms for enhancement of cross border trade.

Government has set up Border Haats at India-Bangladesh border to promote well-being of the people dwelling in remote areas by establishing traditional system of marketing the local produce through local markets. Issues relating to improvement of trade infrastructure at Land Custom Stations/Integrated Check Posts are also being coordinated in consultation with the concerned states and the neighbouring countries.

Further, assistance is provided under Market Access Initiative (MAI) and Market Development Assistance (MDA) schemes to Indian exporters, Export Promotion Councils, Apex Trade Bodies etc. for participation in events in foreign countries, including countries in neighbourhood.

****
ANSWER

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

(a): The value of India’s overall trade deficit for the last three years and the current year is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Exports</th>
<th>Imports</th>
<th>Trade Balance</th>
<th>% growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>466.22</td>
<td>528.97</td>
<td>-62.74</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>468.45</td>
<td>529.61</td>
<td>-61.17</td>
<td>-2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>416.60</td>
<td>465.64</td>
<td>-49.04</td>
<td>-19.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16 (Apr-Jan)</td>
<td>348.44</td>
<td>396.90</td>
<td>-48.46</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17 (Apr-Jan)*</td>
<td>355.22</td>
<td>389.29</td>
<td>-34.07</td>
<td>-29.68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Provisional

The above data reveals that the overall trade deficit of the country has improved over the years.

(b): India’s overall balance of payment for the period 2013-14 was valued at US$ 15508 million which increased to US$ 61406 million during the period 2014-15 and for the period 2015-16 the overall balance of payment was valued at US$ 17905 million.

(c): The Government has taken following steps to increase country’s exports:
(i) The New **Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20)** was announced on 1st April, 2015 with a focus on supporting both manufacturing and services exports.

(ii) The Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) was introduced in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 on April 1, 2015 and is a major export promotion scheme implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. MEIS aims to incentivize export of merchandise which is produced/ manufactured in India. Rewards @ 2-5% 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. At present, 7914 tariff lines at 8 digit HS Codes are covered under MEIS scheme.

(iii) The Government has also 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. The rate of reward under the scheme would be based on net foreign exchange earned. The present rates of reward are 3% and 5%.

(iv) 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, counseling sessions, individual facilitation, etc., on various aspects of foreign trade for being able to get into international trade and boost exports from India.

(v) 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.

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

(vii) 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.

***
IMPACT OF EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES ON DOMESTIC SUPPLY

2245. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) whether the export of agricultural commodities like rice, wheat pulses, sugar, etc. has affected the domestic supply and demand scenario; and
(b) if so the details thereof along with the steps taken by Government to ensure proper domestic supply?

ANSWER

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

***

(a) & (b): The export or import of agricultural products is decided by the Government after taking into various factors including availability of surplus over and above the requirement of buffer stock including strategic reserve, concerns of food security, diplomatic/humanitarian considerations, international demand and supply situation, quality standards in the importing/exporting countries, varieties traded and price competitiveness, need to balance between remunerative prices to the growers and availability of agricultural products to common man at affordable prices. The export of agricultural commodities has not affected the domestic supply and demand scenario.

*****
2247(H). SHRI SANJAY SETH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) the number of proposals regarding Special Economic Zones which have been approved by Government so far;
(b) the number of such cases in which land acquisition process has been carried out; and
(c) the number of such cases in which State Governments played a role and the extent of their role in the process of land acquisition, State-wise details thereof?

ANSWER

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

***

(a): In addition to Seven Central Government Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and 11 State/Private Sector SEZs set-up prior to the enactment of the SEZs Act, 2005, approvals have been accorded in respect of 416 proposals for setting up of SEZs in the country.

(b) & (c): Land is a State subject. Central Government does not carry out any land acquisition process. In all cases of notified SEZs, the land has been either purchased directly by the developer from the landholders or the land is acquired by the State Government through its agencies and leased to the developer as per the policy and procedures of the respective State Governments. SEZ approvals are given on the recommendation of the respective State Governments.

***
PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL SEAFOOD FAIRS

2249. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) whether India participated in International Seafood Fairs to effectively market its marine products in major markets;
(b) if so, the details of International Seafood Fairs which were held during last three years and India's participation in those Fairs;
(c) whether participation in International Seafood Fairs emphatically increased marketing of India's marine products in major international markets; 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) : Yes sir.

(b): The Marine Product Export Development Authority (MPEDA), a statutory body under the administration of Ministry of Commerce & Industry dealing with marine products exports participates in important major International Seafood Fairs. The list of International Seafood fairs participated by MPEDA during last three years is as below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL. No.</th>
<th>FAIRS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Aquarama, Singapore, 30th May – 2nd June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Japan International Seafood &amp; Technology Expo, Tokyo, 21-23 August 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>World Food Moscow, Russia, 16-19 Sep 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>CONXEMAR, Vigo, Spain, 1-3 Oct 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Event Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>China Fisheries &amp; Seafood Expo, Dalian, China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>The Middle East &amp; Africa Seafood Exhibition (SEAFEX)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2014-15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Seafood Expo Global</td>
<td>Brussels, 6-8 May 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>China Fisheries &amp; Seafood Expo, Qingdao, China</td>
<td>5-7 Nov 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>The Middle East &amp; Africa Seafood Exhibition</td>
<td>Dubai, 9-11 Nov 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Seafood Expo North America</td>
<td>Boston, 15-17 March 2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2015-16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Seafood Expo Global</td>
<td>Brussels, 21-23 April 2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>SAITEX, South Africa</td>
<td>Johannesburg, 21-23 June 2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>VIETFISH</td>
<td>Vietnam, 24-26 Aug 2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Asian Seafood Exposition</td>
<td>Hong Kong, 8-10 Sep 2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>China Fisheries &amp; Seafood Expo, Qingdao</td>
<td>4-6 Nov 2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Seafood Expo North America</td>
<td>Boston, 6-8 March 2016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(c): Yes Sir.

(d): The participation in International seafood fairs helps the MPEDA and its registered exporters to reach out to new markets and to consolidate the buyer base in existing markets. The India Pavilion in the above mentioned shows have helped in brand building of Indian Seafood.

******
2250. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) the details of import and export of main commercial crops during 2015-16 and so far during 2016-17;
(b) whether import of these items affect cultivation of these crops, if so, the details thereof;
(c) what protection Government has extended to these farmers; and
(d) whether cultivation of some of these crops has been affected by imports, if so, 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 and export of main commercial crops during 2015-16 and so far in 2016-17 are as below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>2015-16</th>
<th>2016-17 (P)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Import</td>
<td>Export</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea</td>
<td>18,430</td>
<td>2,32,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td>5,223</td>
<td>2,43,418</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(P): Provisional
Import of these crops do not have any significant effect on their cultivation in the country. Moreover, most of the imports are done for value addition and re-export purposes. To protect the domestic farmers, Government imposes import duty from time to time. To regulate the import of Natural Rubber, Government has been taken various steps such as reduction in export obligation period, enhancement of basic import duty, port restriction etc.
ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR VOC PORT AT TUTICORIN

2251. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) whether Government has allocated any fund for development of VO Chidambaranar (VOC) Port at Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu under the Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and other Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme;
(b) if so, the details of funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years; and
(c) if no such funds have been allotted, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) No, Sir. No fund have been allocated for development of VO Chidambaranar (VOC) Port at Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu under Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and other Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme as no such proposal has been sanctioned.

(b & c) Does not arise.
2252. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved a proposal to redevelop Pargati Maidan by setting up a world class integrated exhibition-cum-convention centre at a total cost of ₹ 2254 crores;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the ITPO will utilize ₹1200 crores out of its free reserves towards funding of the project;
(d) whether Government has fixed any time-frame to complete the proposed redevelopment; and
(e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. The Government has accorded its approval for the redevelopment of Pragati Maidan into a new world class Integrated Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) at a total cost of ₹ 2254 crores. The proposal is to re-develop an Integrated Exhibition-cum-convention Centre (IECC) at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi in two phases i.e. Phase-I & Phase-II. In Phase-I the following is envisaged:

- Exhibition facility – 1,19,445 sq.mts.
- Convention Centre – about 7000 PAX
- Basement Parking – 4800 vehicles
- Administration Block – 8857 Sq. mts.

(c) : Yes Sir.

(d) & (e): Yes, Sir. The completion time for Phase-I is proposed as 24-30 months from the date of award of work to the Project Executor including the time taken in obtaining all the necessary statutory approvals from the local authorities.
CONTRIBUTION OF SERVICES SECTOR TO THE GDP

2253. SHRI C.M. RAMESH

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) the contribution of services sector to country's GDP and employment in the last three years, year-wise;
(b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has prepared a Paper to be submitted for approval before G20 and BRICS with regard to services industry;
(c) if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry and World Bank will be organising a workshop on Trade Facilitation Services shortly; and
(e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) The contribution of Services sector to the country’s Gross Value Added (GVA) at basic prices (2011-12) for the last three years is given in the table below.

Table 1: Share of Services Sector to total Gross Value Added in India

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Share of Services to total Gross Value Added (in percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014-15 (Second Revised Estimates)</td>
<td>51.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16 (First Revised Estimates)</td>
<td>53.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17 (Second Advanced Estimates)</td>
<td>53.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Central Statistics Office (Share of services is calculated at current prices)

The share of services sector in total employment of the country as per the World bank data available for the latest three years is given below:

Table 2: Share of Services sector in total Employment of India (in percent)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>28.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: World Bank Database
(b) & (c) No Sir.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) The Ministry of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the World Bank Group is organizing a Workshop on ‘Trade Facilitation in Services (TFS)’ on 23rd and 24th March, 2017 in New Delhi. The workshop is being organized with a view to support awareness building and better understanding on the issues related to facilitating trade in services. The workshop will provide an opportunity to brainstorm on all the relevant issues with World Bank and global experts, and academicians researching trade related matters, private sector and industry representatives, and representatives from Government.

***
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2254
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22nd MARCH, 2017

RESTRUCTURING OF COMMODITY BOARDS

2254. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) whether Government has taken any steps for restructuring or closing down the various Commodity Boards such as Coffee Board/Tea Board/Spices Board, etc.;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(c) whether the said Commodity Boards have been restructured as planned; 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): Performance review of the Commodity Boards viz. Tea Board, Coffee Board, Rubber Board and Spices Board is done by the Department of Commerce on regular basis to ensure the smooth and effective functioning of the boards and corrective action is taken wherever required. There is no proposal of restructuring or closing down of Commodity Boards at present.

*****
2255. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
(a) whether Government proposes to amend the Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003; and
(b) if so, what are the objectives of the proposed amendment?

ANSWER

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

***

(a): The Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003 is amended as and when such a need is felt. The Central Government has recently amended the Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003 vide notification vide S.O.21 dated 3.1.2017 exempting Mini Tea Factories from obtaining any registration/no objection certificate for manufacturing tea, in order to encourage the small tea growers to have their own tea factories and get better price for their produce. Presently, there is no proposal to amend the Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003.

(b): Does not arise.

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