DPR ON EXPORT OF PULIVENDULA BANANAS

481. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that under NABARD a Detailed Project Report (DPR) is being prepared to export the world famous bananas from Pulivendula of Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh;
(b) whether it is also a fact that a few export agencies have also come forward to export Pulivendula bananas to other countries which are otherwise restricted to Bengaluru, Chennai and Delhi; and
(c) if so, the details thereof and to what extent this will help farmers from Kadapa?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) NABARD has informed that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has given consultancy work for preparation of Detailed Project Report for establishment of an Integrated Pack House at Pulivendula to NABARD Consultancy Services (NABCONS), a subsidiary of NABARD. It is understood that the pack house is being designed primarily for handling and packing of bananas for export.

(b) No exporter/agency has approached the Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), which has the mandate to promote exports of bananas, for assistance in exporting Pulivendula banana.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

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POWER TO INTER-MINISTERIAL BOARD OF APPROVAL TO PROMOTE SEZs

483. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a committee constituted by Government has suggested that the Inter- Ministerial Board of Approval be accorded power to grant exemption, relaxation or relief to units and developers from certain rules to promote Special Economic Zones (SEZs);
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether it is also a fact that the said committee has also invited suggestions from stakeholders on the points raised by the committee; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a)- (b): Yes Sir. The committee constituted by the Government to review the SEZ Rules, 2006 has recommended to insert a new rule in SEZ Rules, 2006 empowering Board of Approval to pass such orders or grant such exemption, relaxation or relief, in public interest, as it may deem fit and proper, on grounds of genuine hardship and adverse impact on trade to any person or class or category of persons from any provisions of SEZ Rules.

(c)-(d): Suggestions from the stakeholders on the recommendations of the committee had been sought and a large number of suggestions from stakeholders have been received.

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CHALLENGE TO DOMESTIC CONTENT STIPULATION UNDER JNNSM

484. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA:

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

(a) whether the domestic content stipulation for solar cells and modules under Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) has been challenged in WTO;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the details regarding India's position on above and the steps taken by Government to counter the challenge?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (b): Domestic content stipulation for solar cells and modules under the JNNSM programme was challenged in 2013 by the United States in the WTO.

(c): After the WTO ruling that required India to remove domestic content stipulation for solar cells and modules in the JNNSM programme, India submitted its compliance report to the WTO on 14th December, 2017, stating that India has complied with the WTO ruling in this dispute.

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GUIDELINES FOR GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

485. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE:

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

(a) whether the Ministry has prepared any structured guidelines for grievance redressal related communications via Twitter and Facebook, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
(b) the total grievances voiced via Twitter and redressed during 2014 to 2017 and what has been the general nature of these grievances; and
(c) the details of human as well as Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure created for this task?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a): Yes, Sir. There is a system of grievance redressal received on Twitter.

(b): The total number of grievances / queries received and responded from April 2016 till 31st January 2018 is 15,076 and 14,998 respectively. The grievances / queries mostly pertain to DGFT, Make In India, Startup India, trademarks, Copyrights, Geographic Indicators, antidumping etc.

(c): The digital platform provided by Twitter is used for this purpose. A small team directs the questions / queries / grievances to the concerned officials for response.

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PESTICIDE RESIDUE ON EXPORTED POMEGRANATE

486. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been adverse effect on exports of pomegranate from the country, particularly from the State of Maharashtra due to pesticide residue on this fruit;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) how far this has affected foreign exchange earnings; and
(d) what remedial measures Government has taken/proposed to take in the matter?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) The Government has not received any reports of adverse effect on exports of pomegranate from the country, particularly from the State of Maharashtra, due to pesticide residue on the fruit. Export of pomegranate from the State of Maharashtra increased from USD 53.98 million in 2015-16 to USD 55.51 million in 2016-17. During 2017-18 (April to October) the exports stood at USD 34.74 million. During 2012-2017, a total of 160 samples of pomegranate from the State of Maharashtra were collected and analysed by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare. None of the samples were found to contain pesticide residues above the MRL prescribed by FSSAI.

(b, c & d): Does not arise in view of (a) above.

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BAN ON IMPORT OF CHILLIES BY BHUTAN

489. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM:

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

(a) whether Bhutan has banned the import of chillies from India which confirmed the presence of pesticide residues beyond the Codex Alimentarius Commission's limits;

(b) whether the Government Test House at Alipore, Kolkata has also confirmed the presence of pesticide residues in chillies exported from Falakata in West Bengal; and

(c) whether the European Union has been imposing similar bans on imports from India, mainly on food and horticultural products?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a): The Royal Government of Bhutan has not imposed any blanket ban on import of chillies from India. However, Bhutan imposed temporary ban for the import of chillies from Falakatta area in West Bengal in July, 2016 due to the presence of pesticide residues above the Codex Alimentarius Commission's limits.

(b): Government Test House at Alipore, Kolkata has not done the test for the presence of presence of pesticides in chillies exported from Falakata in West Bengal.

(c): European Union has not imposed ban on import of food products including chillies from India. However, food consignments in which pesticide residues above the European Union’s permissible limit (Maximum Residue Level) are detected, are rejected by the European Union.
OPERATION OF SEZs

492. SHRI RIPUN BORA:

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

(a) whether over 60 per cent of total notified area for Special Economic Zones are lying vacant, 224 SEZs designated as non-operational and 109 areas are in approval of cancellation;
(b) if so, total land acquired and now being actually utilized for the special purpose thereof;
(c) the problems in making SEZs operational, the amount spent on SEZs, employment generated and amount of exports by SEZ units during the last three year period thereof; and
(d) present status of SEZs in the hills, North-Eastern region and funds allocated and spent towards development thereon?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) Sir, 52% of the Notified SEZ land is presently vacant. Out of 423 Special Economic Zones approved after the SEZ Act, 2005 came into force, 357 SEZs have been notified and presently 221 SEZs are operational. Out of the 357 notified SEZs, 136 are non-operational.
(b) No land has been acquired for setting up of SEZs by the Central Government after the SEZ Act, 2005 came into force.
(c) Setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) is a long term process and delay in commencement of commercial operations of the SEZs may be due to various reasons which include time taken in getting approvals from statutory/State Government bodies, adverse business climate due to changed global economic situation, changes in fiscal incentives, etc. No funds have been spent by the Central Government for setting up of SEZs after the enactment of SEZ Act, 2005. The details of export and employment in SEZs during the last three years is as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Export (in Rs. Crores)</th>
<th>Employment* (in persons)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>4,67,337</td>
<td>1591381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>5,23,637</td>
<td>1731641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>2,66,773</td>
<td>1823451</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Calculated on cumulative basis
(d) 2 SEZs in the State of Nagaland namely Nagaland Industrial Development Corporation Limited and H.N. Company and 1 SEZ in the State of Manipur namely Manipur IT SEZ Project Development Company Ltd are notified but are yet to become operational. No funds are allocated by the Central Government for the development of SEZs.

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EMPLOYMENT GENERATION AND INVESTMENT IN SEZs

493. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) the targets fixed for employment generation and investment in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) during the last three years;
(b) to what extent the targets have been achieved; and
(c) the targets fixed for the current year?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c): Sir, targets for employment generation and investment in Special Economic Zones are not fixed.

*****
MEASURES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TEA INDUSTRY

494. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:

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

(a) what measures have been taken by the Tea Board/Government for the development of tea industry in the country, especially in Assam;
(b) the details of the schemes being implemented by Government for the welfare of tea workers/labourers, Statewise; and
(c) whether Government proposes to provide any special package for the development of tea gardens and welfare of workers/labourers with respect to education, health and sanitation?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(Shri C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) The Central Government, through Tea Board, is promoting the development of tea industry in the country, including Assam, by way of regulations under the Tea Act, 1953. Further, Tea Board is also implementing “Tea Development and Promotion Scheme (TDPS)” which inter alia, includes activities for improvement in tea production, productivity, quality up-gradation, research and extension, promotion of exports and value addition through provisions of financial and technical assistance to growers and other stakeholders of the tea industry. A total amount of Rs.685.61 crore has been spent during the 12th Plan Period (2012-13 to 2016-17) and the current financial year 2017-18 (upto 31.12.2017) under the scheme by the Tea Board, which includes 313.22 crore extended to the State of Assam.

(b) & (c): The working condition of tea garden workers in the country are governed by the Plantation Labour Act (PLA), 1951, administered by Ministry of Labour& Employment and enforced by the concerned state governments. This Act requires the employers to provide the workers with housing, medical facilities, sickness and maternity benefits and other forms of social security measures. There are provisions for educational facility for the children, drinking water, conservancy, canteens, crèches and recreational facilities for the
benefit of the tea plantation workers and their families in and around the work places in the tea estates.

Tea Board is also implementing Human Resource Development (HRD) activities aiming at improving the health and hygiene of workers, education of wards of workers and imparting training to improve skills for growers/workers. The State-wise details of assistance provided, during the 12th Plan Period from 2012-13 to 2016-17 are given in the following Table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Total 12th Plan (Rs.In Cr)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>18.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tripura</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>4.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>4.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>6.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>34.54</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In view of the provisions of PLA, 1951, and the TPDS already under implementation, there is no proposal, at present under consideration for any special package for the development of tea gardens and welfare of workers/labourers with respect to education, health and sanitation.

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495. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the benefits of global trade expansion have accrued largely because of the World Trade Organisation (WTO);
(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is optimistic about tackling the issue of food security, following the impasse at the Buenos Aires WTO meeting in December, 2017; and
(c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a): The establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) has resulted in a framework of rules for the multilateral trading system applicable to its member countries. At present the WTO has over 160 members having 98 per cent share in world trade. The WTO rules have helped in reducing trade-related barriers among countries and opening new markets by providing a fair platform for its member countries. The WTO’s framework of rules based on non-discrimination, the regular review and monitoring of trade policies of member countries and its dispute settlement mechanism, as well as the reduction in tariffs and non-tariff barriers achieved through negotiation among its member countries, has resulted in their enhanced integration in the global trading system. In this manner, the organization can be said to have contributed to expansion of global trade.
(b)-(c) Ministerial Decisions of the Bali and Nairobi Conferences of the WTO, held in December 2013 and December 2015 respectively and a WTO General Council Decision of 2014, provide for an interim solution on the issue of public stockholding for food security purposes which is available to developing countries in perpetuity till a permanent solution is agreed and adopted. The interim solution ensures that WTO members would exercise due restraint (popularly termed as ‘Peace Clause’) in raising disputes under the relevant provisions of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture in respect of public stockholding programmes for food security purposes even if countries exceed their permissible limits as regards subsidies for such programmes.

While a permanent solution on public stockholding for food security purposes could not be achieved at the recently concluded 11th Ministerial Conference of the WTO held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in December 2017 due to a lack of consensus, India’s public stockholding programmes continue to be protected due to the interim solution, which is available in perpetuity.

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INCENTIVES TO STATES FOR PROMOTING EXPORTS

499. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

(a) whether Government is considering to give incentives to States for promoting exports and push the country’s industrial growth;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for growth of exports and becoming less dependent on imports, particularly in electronics, defence sector, etc.?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The Government has recently announced the Mid Term Review of the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 on 05.12.2017 under which measures to boost exports for all notified products under the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) were announced. This Scheme was introduced in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 on April 1, 2015. As on date, 7950 Tariff Lines at 8 digit level are eligible for rewards under MEIS at rates of currently at 2%, 3%, 4%, 5% and 7% of realized FOB value. The scheme does not target exports from any specific state from India and all notified products are granted incentive. For the electronics sector, at the time of review of Mid Term review of FTP, an annual additional incentive of Rs 233.3 Cr was provided for 74 tariff lines at 8 digit level.

Further, in order to promote India’s exports and minimize the trade deficit, the Government announced a major relief package for exporters in October 2017 by extending the Advance Authorization (AA)/ Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG)/ 100% EOU schemes to sourcing inputs etc. from abroad as well as domestic suppliers. During the mid-term review of Foreign Trade Policy, export incentives under Merchandise Exports from India (MEIS) have been increased by 2% for labour intensive and MSME sectors leading to additional annual incentive of Rs 4,567 crore. This was in addition to already announced increase in MEIS incentives from 2% to 4% for Ready-made Garments and Made Ups in the labour intensive Textiles Sector with an additional annual incentive of Rs 2,743 crore. Further, incentives under Services Exports from India Scheme (SEIS) have also been increased by 2% leading to additional annual incentive of Rs 1,140 crore.
The Government has undertaken Foreign Direct Investment policy reforms in 21 sectors covering 87 areas. In addition to the opening up of new sectors and enhancement of caps for existing sectors, various conditionalities for foreign investments have also been simplified. The Government has also taken up a series of measures to improve Ease of Doing Business. The emphasis has been on simplification and rationalization of the existing rules and introduction of information technology to make governance more efficient and effective.

In the electronics and defence sectors, the following steps have been taken to promote growth of exports and reduction in imports:

**Electronics:** Following schemes namely Modified Special Incentives Package Scheme (M-SIPS) of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Preferential Market Access, Electronic Manufacturing Clusters (EMC), Electronics Development Fund (EDF) are implemented and supported with Interest Equalization on Export Credit, Advance License, Duty Drawback Export Benefit Scheme, Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme.

**Defence:** Following steps have been taken for growth of exports and becoming less dependent on imports in Defence Sector:

I) To increase the self-reliance and export of defence equipment, there is greater focus now on indigenous design, development and manufacture of defence equipment in the Defence Production Policy and the Defence Procurement Procedure.

II) Defence Export Strategy has been formulated and placed in the public domain. The strategy provides for creation of an Export Promotion Body, engaging Indian Missions/Embassies abroad in export promotion, export financing through line of credit etc., better use of offset policy, export of indigenously developed defence systems and streamlining of the export regulation process.

III) The list of munition list items for the purpose of issuing “Authorisation” for export has been notified by the Government to remove ambiguity and to make the process transparent.

IV) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for issue of “Authorisation” for export of military stores has been simplified and put in public domain. Requirement of Government signed End User Certificate (EUC) for export of parts and components and other non-sensitive military stores, sub-assemblies, sub-systems has been done away with.

V) The process of applying for “Authorisation” for export of munition list items has been made on-line.

VI) Specific time frame has been prescribed in SOP for issue of “Authorisation” for export of munition list items.

VII) The Defence Public Sector Undertakings/Ordinance Factories also participate in International defence exhibitions in major countries like France, United Kingdom, Brazil, Japan, South Africa, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Germany etc. to showcase their defence products and explore business opportunities abroad.

VIII) A compendium of Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) developed products having export potential was released by DRDO. This will help the industries to explore the potential export market.

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