4161. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that according to World Trade Organisation, its members still have time to discuss the tariffs on steel and aluminium imports notified by the US;
(b) whether it is also a fact that there is an obligation for a member who takes a measure such as a safeguard or an antidumping measure or a countervailing measures to notify the organisation of that measure; 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 Notification by US on tariff on steel & aluminium has come into effect from 23.03.2018. If any Notification or any action by one Member Country infringes the provisions of World Trade Organisation (WTO), the affected party may raise the issue with World Trade Organisation (WTO) Dispute Settlement Body.

(b) & (c) Yes, Sir. A WTO Member who takes action relating to a safeguard, anti-dumping or countervailing measure must notify the relevant committee of the WTO as per the provisions of the relevant Agreement. In the case of safeguard measures, the Member must notify the Committee on Safeguards pursuant to Article 12.1 of the Agreement on Safeguards. In the case of anti-dumping measures, the Member must notify the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices pursuant to Article 16.4 of the Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994. In the case of countervailing duty measures, the Member must notify the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures pursuant to Article 25.11 of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.

*****
PERFORMANCE OF SEZs

4163. SHRI K. K. RAGESH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there are wide gaps in the projections about employment generation, production, FDI, export performance and foreign exchange earnings of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs);

(b) if so, whether any reports are available with Government which document such gaps in employment generation, production, FDI, export performance and foreign exchange earnings of the SEZs; and

(c) if so, the details of the last three years thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Yes Sir, Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) in Report No. 21 of 2014 has observed that there were gaps in the projections about employment, investment and export from Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country and their actual performance. The aforesaid C&AG observations were based on the performance of SEZs in the initial 5 - 6 years from the enactment of SEZ Act, 2005. Further, SEZs are essentially industrial infrastructure with long gestation period. However, significant growth has been registered in terms of employment, investment and export from SEZs thereafter. The details of last three years is as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Export (Rs. Crores)</th>
<th>Employment* (in persons)</th>
<th>Investment* (Rs. Crores)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>4,67,337</td>
<td>15,91,381</td>
<td>3,76,494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>5,23,637</td>
<td>17,31,641</td>
<td>4,23,189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>2,66,773 (as on 30.09.2017)</td>
<td>18,23,451</td>
<td>4,48,832</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Calculated on cumulative basis.

*****
MANUFACTURING OF PHYSIOTHERAPY EQUIPMENTS

4164. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH:

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

(a) whether instruments/equipments relating to physiotherapy are being imported;
(b) if so, whether these instruments can also be made in the country;
(c) whether there is a standardisation for these equipments; and
(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Yes Sir, while Physiotherapy equipment is being imported, it is also being manufactured in the Country.

(c) & (d): Electronics Regional Test Laboratory (South), STQC Directorate under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) issues certificate for electrical safety testing and calibration of Electro-medical Equipment. However, it has not been made mandatory.

Further, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has prescribed standard “IS 13450(Part 2/Sec 5): 2009/ IEC 60601-2-5:2005 Medical Electrical Equipment - Part 2: Particular requirement for the safety: Section 5 Ultrasonic physiotherapy equipment”. BIS grants a licence to use and apply Standard Mark on the product after verification of manufacturing and testing capability of the firm and ensuring the conformity of the product against relevant Indian Standard. As on date, no one has been licensed under IS 13450 (Part 2/ Sec 5): 2009 /IEC 60601-2-5: 2005.

****
INCREASE IN SOYABEAN IMPORTS

4165. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India's soyabean imports have hit a record high this year and more purchase is expected as domestic supplies have tightened following lower production last year;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether it is also a fact that traders have signed deals to sell up to 1,00,000 tonnes of soyabean to India since December, 2017, shipping mainly from the African countries; 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): As per 2nd Advance Estimates released by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, the domestic production of soya bean oilseeds is estimated at 131.59 lakh tonnes in 2016-17 and 113.9 lakh tonnes in 2017-18. Imports of Soyabean oilseeds increased substantially during 2016-17 and current year 2017-18. The details are as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soyabean oilseeds import</td>
<td>53379</td>
<td>81375</td>
<td>20712</td>
<td>6312</td>
<td>515</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(c) & (d): No such information is available.

***
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4166(H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04\textsuperscript{th} APRIL, 2018

SETTING UP OF BUSINESS CENTRES IN EAST ASIA

4166(H). DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE:

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

(a) the details of the policies of Government for developing business partnership for trade in South-East Asia;
(b) whether Government will abolish the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status of that country which has not given the same status to India; and
(c) whether for promoting trade with countries of East Asia, Government will consider upon setting up of business centres in those countries?

ANSWER

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

(a) For developing business partnership for trade in South East Asia, India has ratified the following Trade Agreements with South East Asian Nations:

1. India-Thailand FTA- Early Harvest Scheme (EHS) on 1st September, 2004.
3. India-ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement- signed on 13.08.2009 ratified with all 10 countries on different dates from 1st January 2010 to 1st August 2011.
5. India-ASEAN Agreement on Trade in Services on 1\textsuperscript{st} July, 2015.
6. India-ASEAN Agreement on Investment on 1\textsuperscript{st} July, 2015.

(b) India provides MFN status in line with its multilateral trade commitments to all WTO Members. However, general and security exceptions are provided to the MFN principle in the WTO Agreements.

(c) Indian diplomatic Missions abroad have Economic/Commercial wings for facilitation and promotion of bilateral trade.
CONSULTATION WITH INDUSTRY PRIOR TO TRADE TALKS WITH EU

4167. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to consult the industry prior to the meeting between India and the European Union regarding Bilateral Trade Investment Agreement on products of its aggressive interest or exports in which it wants tariff concession from the European Union;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether it is also a fact that many industries do not want their products be opened up; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The Government consults stakeholders, including industry associations, in order to access the requirement of domestic industries and accordingly develops India’s negotiation strategy. As it is consistent with previous and established practice in ongoing negotiations, disclosure before finalization of the Agreement may adversely affect India’s position in the negotiations.

****
BRACKETING OF INDIA BY THE US FOR RETALIATORY TRADE TARIFF

4169. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the US has bracketed India, for retaliatory trade tariff if India does not ease up on taxing American imports;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the steps proposed to be taken up with the US Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a)& (b) While US keep raising the issue of import duties on certain specified items, there has been no discussion about imposing of retaliatory trade tariff with regard to import duties on American exports to India.

(c) It is Government’s pro-active policy to encourage its exports, and the issues arising in bilateral trade from time to time are taken up with the Government of United States at various levels, including at the highest level. India has also taken up with the U.S. to exempt India from the steel and aluminium tariffs. India is examining all the options to deal with the issue, in case it is not resolved bilaterally.

****
EXPORT OF PURE GOLD

4170. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY

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

(a) whether Government is contemplating to allow export of pure gold in the course of the proposed Comprehensive Gold Policy of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposal;

(c) whether this move paves way for the import of raw gold into the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) In Union Budget 2018-19 it is announced that the Government will formulate a comprehensive gold policy to develop gold as an asset class. However, at present, there is no proposal to allow export of pure gold.

****
IMPACT OF ASEAN-INDIA FTA ON TEA SECTOR

4171. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that the implementation of the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will have an adverse impact on the Indian tea sector due to duty cut on import of tea; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The tariff commitments of tea import as per the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) executed between India and the Members of Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) pertaining to Harmonised System (HS) Code 09024010 to 09024090 are given at Annexure-A. There are no tariff reduction commitments for tea imports covered under HS Code 09021010 to 09023090. Details are at Annexure-B.

At present the imported green and orthodox tea from ASEAN countries is used in blending for re-export and the domestic market for these tea is limited. Hence, the apprehensions in the Tea Industry on reduction in import tariffs for orthodox and green teas is not correct. As regards black tea, although the import duty under India-ASEAN FTA is lesser, but at current levels of import, it is not a major concern.
### Tariff commitment under ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) for Tea imports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HS Code</th>
<th>Product Description</th>
<th>MFN 2016</th>
<th>Category under AITIGA</th>
<th>1 Jan-10</th>
<th>1 Jan-11</th>
<th>1 Jan-12</th>
<th>1 Jan-13</th>
<th>31 Dec-13</th>
<th>1 Jan-14</th>
<th>1 Jan-15</th>
<th>1 Jan-16</th>
<th>31 Dec-16</th>
<th>1 Jan-17</th>
<th>1 Jan-18</th>
<th>1 Jan-19</th>
<th>31 Dec-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09024010</td>
<td>Content Exceeding 3 Kg. But Not Exceeding 20 Kg.</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Special Product</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09024020</td>
<td>Black Tea, Leaf in Bulk</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Special Product</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09024030</td>
<td>Black Tea, Dust in Bulk</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Special Product</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09024040</td>
<td>Tea Bags</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Special Product</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09024050</td>
<td>Black Tea, Agglomerated In Forms Such As Ball, Brick and Tablets</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Special Product</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09024060</td>
<td>Black Tea, Waste</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Special Product</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09024090</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Special Product</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Annexure- B

### Tariff commitment under ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) for Tea imports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HS Code</th>
<th>Product Description</th>
<th>MFN 2016</th>
<th>Category under AITIGA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09021010</td>
<td>Content Not Exceeding 25 G</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>EL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09021020</td>
<td>Content Exceeding 25 G. But Not Exceeding 1 Kg.</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>EL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09021030</td>
<td>Content Exceeding 1 Kg. But Not Exceeding 3 Kg.</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>EL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09021090</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>EL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09022010</td>
<td>Green Tea in Packets With Contents Exceeding 3 Kg. But Not Exceeding 20 Kg. Paise Per Kg.</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>EL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09022020</td>
<td>Green Tea in Bulk</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>EL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09022030</td>
<td>Green Tea Agglomerated In Forms Such As Ball, Brick And Tablets Paise Per Kg.</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>EL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09022040</td>
<td>Green Tea Waste</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>EL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0902290</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>EL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09023010</td>
<td>Content Not Exceeding 25 G</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>EL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09023020</td>
<td>Content Exceeding 25 G. But Not Exceeding 1 Kg.</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>EL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09023030</td>
<td>Content Exceeding 1 Kg. But Not Exceeding 3 Kg.</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>EL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09023090</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>EL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EL: Exclusion List

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4174
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04th APRIL, 2018

TAKING UP IMPORT TARIFF WITH WTO

4174. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India is waiting for the US notification on increase in import tariff on steel and aluminium, to gauge its impact on domestic players amid a global outcry over America's decision to raise duties beyond its commitment at the World Trade Organisation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to take the issue before the World Trade Organisation; 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 United States (U.S.) vide Presidential Proclamations dated 08-03-2018 imposed a tariff of 25% specified steel imports and 10% on specified aluminium imports, which are beyond the bound rate committed by U.S. to WTO. There would be an impact on domestic players exporting the specified steel and aluminium products.

(b) & (c) It is Government’s pro-active policy to encourage its exports, and the issues arising in bilateral trade from time to time are taken up with the Government of United States at various levels, including at the highest level. India has also taken up with the U.S. to exempt India from the steel and aluminium tariffs. India is examining all the options to deal with the issue, in case it is not resolved bilaterally.

*****
Rajya Sabha
Unstarred Question No. 4175
To be Answered on 04th April, 2018

Increase in Tea Exports to Pakistan

4175. Shri A. K. Selvaraj:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that tea exports to Pakistan have increased during April, 2017 to January, 2018;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether it is also a fact that at the same time tea exports to other CIS countries fell considerably;
(d) whether in value terms, exports were to the tune of ₹ 3970 crore in the first 10 months of current fiscal, which was higher than ₹ 3874 crore in the similar period of previous fiscal; and
(e) 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 tea exports to Pakistan during 2017-18 (April-January) stood at 12.73 Million Kgs. (Provisional) as against 9.65 Million Kgs. during the same period in previous year, which shows an increase of 3.08 Million Kgs. (31.92%).

(c): The tea exports to other CIS countries during 2017-18 (April-January) stood at 46.92 million kgs (Provisional) as against 49.63 million kgs during the same period in previous year, which shows a decline of 2.71 million kgs (-5.46%).

(d) & (e): The total value of exports for 2017-18 (April to January) (Provisional) was ₹ 3970.37 Crores as against ₹ 3874.82 Crores during the same period in previous year. This shows an increase in total value of exports to the level of ₹ 95.55 Crores (2.47%).

**********
4178. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN:

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

(a) whether Government has set up any 100 per cent Export Oriented Units in MSME sector, across the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof, productwise and their location; and
(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a), (b) & (c) No Sir, Government has not set up any 100 percent Export Oriented Units (EOU) in any Sector. 100% EOUs can be set by private industry/company/individual in any sector.

****
INDIA'S STAND ON E-COMMERCE IN WTO

4183. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India had taken a hard stand at the World Trade Organisation meeting held in Buenos Aires on e-commerce, investment facilitation and norms for small firms' access to the global marketplace;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether it is also a fact that on ecommerce, India had laid preconditions for giving its consent for extension of a moratorium that constrains member nations from levying customs duties on electronic transmission; 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): At the Eleventh Ministerial Conference that took place at Buenos Aires, Argentina during 10-13 December 2017, many countries including India did not agree to multilateral decisions on Investment Facilitation and MSMEs proposed by some countries, for which there was no consensus/mandate.

As regards e-commerce, India is a part of the multilateral decision arrived at Buenos Aires which inter-alia reaffirms to continue to work under the “Work Programme on Electronic Commerce” adopted by the WTO in 1998 and extends the current practice of not imposing customs duty on electronic transmission until the next WTO Ministerial Conference to be held in 2019. Along with this India is also a part of the multilateral decision on a two year moratorium on TRIPS non violation and situation complaints.

(c) & (d): YesSir. India had laid the following preconditions for giving its consent for extension of a moratorium that constrains member nations from levying customs duties on electronic transmission:

i. Similar moratorium on TRIPS Non-Violation and Situation Complaints at the WTO; and
ii. To continue to work under the "Work Programme on Electronic Commerce" adopted by the WTO in 1998.

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