RECOVERY OF LAND ALLOCATED TO SEZs

*219. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to recover the land allocated for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) which is not being used for the purpose and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to curtail the misuse of SEZ land?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) and (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

*****
(a) and (b): As per Entry No. 18 of the State list in the 7th Schedule to the Constitution of India, ‘land’ is a State subject. The Board of Approval (BoA) approves a proposal for establishment of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) subject to the terms and conditions prescribed in the SEZ Act and Rules. The approval is granted only after the concerned State Government recommends the setting up of the SEZ. After the approval, the implementation of SEZ projects by developers is monitored by the Development Commissioners as per SEZ Act and Rules on a regular basis. Based on such monitoring, in case of violation of SEZ Act/Rules, action is initiated against the Developers to recover any fiscal benefit availed by them as well as to penalise them for the violations. De-notification is done based on recommendation of concerned Development Commissioner and after obtaining the No-objection from the State Government concerned as well as Department of Revenue.

*****
IMPACT ON EXPORTS DUE TO DECLINE IN EXPORT CREDIT

2279. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry is aware that there is a sharp decline in export credit given by banks during the last three-four years;
(b) if so, whether Ministry has ever tried to find out the reasons behind this;
(c) the short and long-term measures that have so far been taken to correct the situation and how the above decline has impacted the exports;
(d) whether any consultations have been held with RBI to provide some credit from its currency reserves; and
(e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRIPYUSH GOYAL)

(a) As per data compiled by RBI, the balance outstanding for export credit by all Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) increased from Rs 1,85,591 cr as on 31.3.2015 to Rs 2,43,890 cr as on 31.3.2018 before declining to Rs 2,26,363 cr as on 31.3.2019.

(b) & (c) Government has taken following major steps to increase the flow of credit to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) exporters:

(i) raising interest equalization rate under Interest Equalisation Scheme (IES) from 3% to 5% for MSME exports,
(ii) including Merchant exporters under IES for Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit,
(iii) facilitating export under GST by permitting Letter of Undertaking in place of bond with no bank guarantee for exporting goods or services or both,
(iv) allowing merchant exporters to procure goods from domestic suppliers, for export, with nominal GST of 0.1%,
(v) provisional sanction of 90% GST refund amount for exports within 7 days,
(vi) reducing insurance premium rates by an average of 17% for export credit.
Department of Financial Services has informed that RBI is currently examining the priority sector lending norms for export credit and certain enabling guidelines are under consideration. When issued, revised guidelines are expected to release additional Rs.350-680 billion export credit under priority sector.

(d) & (e) RBI has informed that it is not in favour of earmarking a part of foreign exchange reserves for export credit.

******
PRICES OF TEA

2280. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of tea have not risen due to the rapid increase in tea supply, especially from the small tea growers segment;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether it is also a fact that during 2018, according to Tea Association of India, this segment accounted for a 48 per cent share in India’s output of 1,338 million kilogram against 20 per cent in 2003; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b): The price of tea is dependent on factors such as global demand and supply like other commodities. There is slight increase in the price of tea in the auction recorded in last five years. The auction price of tea sold, year wise during the last 5 years as well as for the current year is given in the following table:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>All India (Rs. per kg.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>125.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>127.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>133.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>132.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td>140.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-20 (April-May)</td>
<td>143.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Tea Board

(c) & (d): The share of small growers to total production of tea has increased to 48.29% in 2018 as compared to 25.90% in 2003, the details of which are given in the following table:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Small Growers Production</th>
<th>Organised Sector Production</th>
<th>Total Production</th>
<th>% share of Small Growers to total production</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>180.66</td>
<td>697.47</td>
<td>878.13</td>
<td>25.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>646.37</td>
<td>692.26</td>
<td>1338.63</td>
<td>48.29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Tea Board*
NEW E-MARKET FOR TEA

2281. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tea Board has inked a Memorandum of Understanding with companies for introducing a new e-market place for tea;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether it is also a fact that the new initiative is expected to improve cost effectiveness and price discovery; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (d): Yes Sir. Tea Board has informed that they have selected a company through tender for introducing a new e-market place for tea. The new e-market place is expected to bring about improvement in terms of turnaround time and cost effectiveness. The new e-market place is also expected to aid fair and market-driven price discovery and bring on board secondary and tertiary buyers from all over the country, giving them access to fresh tea, easy to use automated e-catalogue and faster movement of produce.

*******
CRITERIA FOR IMPOSING OR LIFTING BAN ON EXPORT/IMPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

2284. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:–
Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the criterion followed/adopted by Government for imposing/lifting ban on export/import of various agricultural products from time-to-time;
(b) whether Government has conducted any study to ascertain the adverse impact on farmers/consumers of such imposing/ lifting ban on export/import of agricultural products during each of the last three years and the current year, if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the corrective steps taken by Government to protect the interests of farmers/consumers from the adverse impact of imposing/lifting ban on export/import of agricultural products?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b) The export and import policies for agricultural products, which include the decisions on lifting/imposing bans on export/import of individual agricultural products, are framed keeping several factors in mind, such as availability of surplus over the domestic requirements (including the requirement of buffer stock and strategic reserve, if any), concerns of food security, diplomatic/humanitarian considerations, international demand and supply situation, price competitiveness, need to balance between remunerative prices to the growers and availability of agricultural products to common man at affordable prices etc. During the last three years, no bans have been imposed on export/import of any of the major agricultural products. As such, no study has been conducted in this regard.

(c) The Agriculture Export Policy, brought out by the Government in December 2018, aims at a stable trade policy for agricultural products, involving following steps:

1) Providing assurance that the processed agricultural products and all kinds of organic products will not be brought under the ambit of any kind of export restriction (viz. Minimum Export Price, Export duty, Export bans, Export quota, Export capping, Export permit etc.) even though the primary agricultural product or non-organic agricultural product is brought under some kind of export restrictions.
2) Identification of a few commodities which are essential for food security in consultation with the relevant stakeholders and Ministries. Any export restriction on such identified commodities under extreme price situation will be based on decision of a high level committee. Also, any kind of export prohibitions and restrictions on the identified commodities above would be taken up in a WTO compatible manner.

3). Liberalised import of agricultural products for value addition and re-export.

Consequent to the approval of policy, mandate of the Committee of Secretaries on ‘Essential commodities’ has been expanded to provide recommendation on export restrictions on a few commodities, which are essential for food security, under extreme price situation only.
INITIATIVES FOR PROMOTION OF EXPORTS

2285. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the various initiatives Government has taken in the recent past in order to promote export of various items to different countries;
(b) whether Government is planning to come out with more such initiatives during the current financial year; and
(c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) The Government takes various initiatives to promote exports globally, which include measures under the Foreign Trade Policy, sector specific interventions and efforts to increase market access in other countries. Some major initiatives are as below:

i. A new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 was launched on 1st April 2015. The policy, inter alia, rationalised the earlier export promotion schemes and introduced two new schemes, namely Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) for boosting export of goods and 'Services Exports from India Scheme (SEIS)' for increasing exports of services. Duty credit scrips issued under these schemes were made fully transferable.

ii. The Mid-term Review of the FTP 2015-20 was undertaken on 5th December, 2017. Incentive rates for labour intensive / MSME sectors were increased by 2% with a financial implication of Rs 8,450 cr per year.

iii. During 2018-19, MEIS rates were enhanced for many agricultural items for a limited period. The total annual financial envelope available for MEIS for Financial Year has been increased by about 50% from 01.04.2015 to the
present time. The MEIS scheme enables exporters to claim benefits on all notified products, irrespective of the destination of the exported product at the same rate.

iv. A new Logistics Division was created in the Department of Commerce to coordinate integrated development of the logistics sector. India’s rank in World Bank’s Logistics Performance Index moved up from 54 in 2014 to 44 in 2018.

v. Interest Equalization Scheme on pre and post shipment rupee export credit was introduced from 1.4.2015 providing interest equalisation at 3% for labour intensive / MSME sectors. The rate was increased to 5% for MSME sectors with effect from 2.11.2018 and merchant exporters were covered under the scheme with effect from 2.1.2019.

vi. Various measures for improving ease of doing business were taken. India’s rank in World Bank ‘Ease of doing business’ ranking improved from 142 in 2014 to 77 in 2018 with the rank in ‘trading across borders’ moving up from 122 to 80.

vii. A new scheme called “Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES)” was launched with effect from 1st April 2017 to address the export infrastructure gaps in the country.

viii. A comprehensive “Agriculture Export Policy” was launched on 6th December, 2018 with an aim to double farmers’ income by 2022 and to provide an impetus to agricultural exports.

ix. A new scheme called “Transport and Marketing Assistance” (TMA) scheme has been launched for mitigating disadvantage of higher cost of transportation for export of specified agriculture products.

(b) & (c) A new scheme called Scheme for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) covering export of garments and made-ups was notified on 7.3.2019 providing refund of duties/taxes at higher rates in the form of duty credit scrips.

******
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2288
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12th JULY, 2019

SELECTION OF LAWYERS, LAW FIRMS AND SUBJECT EXPERTS TO REPRESENT INDIA IN WTO DISPUTES AND ISDS CASES

2288. SHRI SANJAY Seth:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the Department within the Ministry which is responsible for selecting lawyers, law firms and subject experts to represent India in WTO disputes and ISDS cases;

(b) the details of process followed by the concerned Department to hire the best talent available for the aforementioned purpose;

(c) the steps taken to develop talent in this sphere so that reliance on international lawyers and law firms is minimized;

(d) the number and details of WTO disputes and ISDS cases which are currently active and in which India is a party; and

(e) the number thereof which have been assigned to foreign lawyers/law-firms?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a):- The Department of Commerce defends India’s interests on trade issues in WTO. Department of Economic Affairs coordinates ISDS cases and these are individually taken up by relevant line Ministries/Departments.

(b):- Department of Commerce empanels law firms through a process of selection committee based on subject expertise in international trade and WTO law.

(c):- A rotational policy is adopted while engaging law firms to ensure that law firms get opportunities to improve their expertise. Think tanks such as Centre for Trade and Investment Law and Centre for WTO Studies are also consulted regularly on India’s disputes to improve expertise on such issues.

(d)& (e):- At present, India is involved in fourteen WTO disputes (Annex-I), all of which are being handled by domestic law firms. In one of these disputes, the expertise of the Geneva based international law organization ‘Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL)’, which assists developing countries on WTO law was engaged to guide the domestic law firm in a WTO dispute. There is no ISDS case pending with Department of Commerce.

****
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dispute No.</th>
<th>Dispute Name</th>
<th>Complainant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DS430</td>
<td>India – Measures Concerning the Importation of Certain Agricultural Products</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DS456</td>
<td>India - Certain Measures Relating to Solar Cells and Solar Modules</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DS518</td>
<td>India — Certain Measures on Imports of Iron and Steel Products</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DS541</td>
<td>India — Export Related Measures</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DS579</td>
<td>India — Measures Concerning Sugar and Sugarcane</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DS580</td>
<td>India — Measures Concerning Sugar and Sugarcane</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DS581</td>
<td>India — Measures Concerning Sugar and Sugarcane</td>
<td>Guatemala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DS582</td>
<td>India — Tariff Treatment on Certain Good in the Information and Communications Technology Sector</td>
<td>European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DS584</td>
<td>India — Tariff Treatment on Certain Goods</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DS585</td>
<td>India — Additional duties on certain products from the United States</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dispute No.</th>
<th>Dispute Name</th>
<th>Complainant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DS436</td>
<td>United States — Countervailing Measures on Certain Hot-Rolled Carbon Steel Flat Products from India</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DS503</td>
<td>United States — Measures Concerning Non-Immigrant Visas</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DS510</td>
<td>United States — Certain Measures Relating to the Renewable Energy Sector</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DS547</td>
<td>United States — Certain Measures on Steel and Aluminium Products</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

***
INCREASED TARIFFS ON US AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL IMPORTS

2290. SHRI D. RAJA
Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to increase tariffs of 29 high value US agricultural and industrial imports by upto 50 per cent from June, 16; and
(b) if so, the details thereof and the expected earnings through these new taxes?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) Government has increased tariff on 28 products originating or exported from the US, vide notification no.17/2019-Customs dated 15th June 2019 of Department of Revenue effective from 16th June, 2019.

(b) The list of products along with rate of additional basic customs duty is annexed. The retaliatory tariffs on 28 products are expected to have an additional duty impact of US$ 217 Million (approx) on US products.

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2291. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's trade deficit widened in May, 2019 to US $15.36 billion, with imports growing faster than exports during the said period;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether it is also a fact that electronics and chemical sectors have shown good export growth during May, 2019; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b): The details of India’s merchandise exports, imports and trade deficit in May 2018 and May 2019 are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value (in Billion USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export</td>
<td>28.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Import</td>
<td>43.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Deficit</td>
<td>-14.97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata

Trade deficit marginally widened to US$ 15.36 billion in May 2019 from US$ 14.97 billion in May 2018, with exports growing faster than imports. Exports increased to US$ 29.99 billion in May 2019 from US$ 28.94 billion in May 2018, registering a positive growth of 3.63% and Import increased to US$ 45.35 billion in May 2019 from US$ 43.92 billion in May 2018, registering a positive growth of 3.27%.
(c) & (d): The details of India’s exports of Electronic Goods and Organic & Inorganic Chemical sectors in May 2018 and May 2019 are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>May, 2018</th>
<th>May, 2019</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Electronic Goods</td>
<td>603.59</td>
<td>911.23</td>
<td>50.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Organic &amp; Inorganic Chemical</td>
<td>1723.77</td>
<td>2079.56</td>
<td>20.64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata*

Exports of Electronic Good and Organic & Inorganic Chemicals have shown high growth in May 2019 over May 2018.

***
2292. SHRI C. M. RAMESH:

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

(a) the details of the major countries where tea is exported and foreign exchange earned by the tea industry in the last three years;
(b) whether export of tea to Iran is going to affect us in view of the US economic sanctions, if so, the details thereof; and
(c) whether Government has any alternate arrangements in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): The details of the major countries to which tea is exported and foreign exchange earned by the tea industry in the last three years is given in Annexure-1.

(b) & (c): Export of tea depends on the Rupee trade arrangements with Iran. In view of the continuation of the Rupee trading agreement with Iran, the detrimental effect of the US economic sanctions has not yet been felt. At present, Rupee-Rial payment mechanism is working well in favour of both exporters and importers.

*********
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country Name</th>
<th>2016-17 Qty (M.Kgs)</th>
<th>2016-17 Value (Cr.Rs.)</th>
<th>2017-18 Qty (M.Kgs)</th>
<th>2017-18 Value (Cr.Rs.)</th>
<th>2018-19 Qty (M.Kgs)</th>
<th>2018-19 Value (Cr.Rs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Russian Fed</td>
<td>45.21</td>
<td>683.38</td>
<td>48.10</td>
<td>777.17</td>
<td>45.37</td>
<td>716.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>12.09</td>
<td>228.41</td>
<td>9.74</td>
<td>177.15</td>
<td>3.38</td>
<td>51.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>3.28</td>
<td>48.64</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>56.24</td>
<td>10.28</td>
<td>193.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other CIS</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>22.66</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>29.19</td>
<td>1.69</td>
<td>33.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total CIS</strong></td>
<td><strong>61.79</strong></td>
<td><strong>983.09</strong></td>
<td><strong>63.09</strong></td>
<td><strong>1039.75</strong></td>
<td><strong>60.72</strong></td>
<td><strong>994.69</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>24.24</td>
<td>632.82</td>
<td>31.19</td>
<td>778.61</td>
<td>14.64</td>
<td>323.79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>18.84</td>
<td>390.61</td>
<td>21.63</td>
<td>427.47</td>
<td>3.83</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
<td>11.13</td>
<td>113.69</td>
<td>16.09</td>
<td>147.94</td>
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<td>Ireland</td>
<td>16.06</td>
<td>316.14</td>
<td>16.07</td>
<td>324.19</td>
<td>1.87</td>
<td>96.97</td>
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<td>Poland</td>
<td>14.61</td>
<td>405.63</td>
<td>13.23</td>
<td>363.27</td>
<td>6.38</td>
<td>113.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S.A</td>
<td>5.20</td>
<td>58.58</td>
<td>12.69</td>
<td>174.40</td>
<td>11.29</td>
<td>362.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>10.79</td>
<td>262.01</td>
<td>10.42</td>
<td>246.20</td>
<td>1.69</td>
<td>58.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.A.E</td>
<td>6.09</td>
<td>113.49</td>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>154.08</td>
<td>17.96</td>
<td>370.26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>5.38</td>
<td>83.72</td>
<td>6.25</td>
<td>96.79</td>
<td>41.02</td>
<td>1076.56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>3.72</td>
<td>90.30</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>106.51</td>
<td>4.28</td>
<td>111.17</td>
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<td>Egypt (ARE)</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td>97.03</td>
<td>4.26</td>
<td>99.85</td>
<td>8.42</td>
<td>111.70</td>
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<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>2.87</td>
<td>41.25</td>
<td>4.08</td>
<td>52.11</td>
<td>0.56</td>
<td>14.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>3.29</td>
<td>140.02</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td>147.80</td>
<td>3.46</td>
<td>45.64</td>
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<td>China</td>
<td>2.36</td>
<td>93.55</td>
<td>2.65</td>
<td>102.17</td>
<td>10.58</td>
<td>180.19</td>
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<td>Singapore</td>
<td>3.39</td>
<td>134.49</td>
<td>2.55</td>
<td>90.90</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>29.02</td>
</tr>
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<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>2.95</td>
<td>87.74</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>67.47</td>
<td>3.55</td>
<td>55.62</td>
</tr>
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<td>Kenya</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>14.77</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>15.43</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>2.44</td>
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Source: Tea Board

******
COMPLAINTS AGAINST INDIA AT WTO

2293. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the last one and a half years, many countries have complained against India at the WTO regarding tariffs and subsidies, if so, the details thereof; and
(b) the details of status of these complaints and the steps taken by Government to resolve the issues involved?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

a)&b) No, Sir. Members of the WTO raise concerns against each other from time to time on trade related issues. India also raises similar concerns in relation to its trading partners. Few countries have recently claimed that India’s tariff hikes on some Information and Technology products, subsidies for sugar sector and export promotion schemes are WTO incompatible. India has adequately defended its policies and measures at WTO.

*****
SEPARATE DEPARTMENT FOR LOGISTICS

2294. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to set up a separate logistics department to enhance the growth of the sector;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether it is also a fact that extensive coordination among different stakeholders of the logistics sector, including roads, railways, shipping, civil aviation and States is required to boost the exports; and
(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b) There is no such proposal under active consideration of the Ministry of Commerce at present.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. A separate Division has been created in the Department of Commerce for “integrated development of logistics sector”.

*****
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2295
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12th JULY,2019

RETALIATORY TARIFF ON US GOODS

2295. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is considering to impose retaliatory tariffs on 29 American goods;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether it is also a fact that the move comes after a year of talks on trade barriers to Indian steel, aluminium, etc.; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) Additional Tariffs have been imposed on 28 products originating or exported from the US, vide notification no. 17/2019-Customs dated 15th June 2019 of Department of Revenue effective from 16th June, 2019.

(b) The list of products along with rate of additional basic customs duty is annexed.

(c) Yes.

(d) India has been continuously engaged with US on this issue, as part of the ongoing bilateral trade dialogue. The US did not accede to India’s request for withdrawal of its additional tariff of 25% and 10% on steel and aluminium respectively imposed under section 232 of Trade Expansion Act, 1962.

****
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<td>ALL OTHER ARTICLES OF IRON/STEEL</td>
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REVIVAL OF COFFEE PLANTATION IN KARNATAKA AND KERALA

2296. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of revival of coffee plantation in Kodagu (Karnataka) and Kerala after the severe natural calamity in 2018;
(b) the various scheme/programmes launched by the Central and State Governments for revival of coffee plantation in these States and the outcome of these schemes/programmes;
(c) the special benefits that have been given to coffee growers in these States; and
(d) how much time would be taken to normalize the life of coffee growers in Kodagu and Kerala?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(Shri Piyush Goyal)

(a) to (d) During the monsoon of 2018 there was excessive rainfall in the coffee growing areas of Karnataka and Kerala, causing significant loss to the coffee crops. As per the detailed joint survey conducted by the Coffee Board and the Government of Karnataka, the area affected by crop loss of above 33% is estimated at 99,984 hectares and an area of 550 hectares was damaged due to landslide and flood. As per detailed assessment conducted by Coffee Board in respect of Kerala, the area affected by crop loss of above 33% is estimated at 10,308 hectares and an area of 73.6 hectares was damaged due to landslide and flood.

In majority of these areas only crop loss had occurred. The plants in these areas have already recovered and come back to regular cropping cycle. In the landslide affected areas where coffee plants along with intercrops were uprooted and shade cover was lost, it would require six to seven years to bring back coffee plantation to the yielding stage.

The Government of Karnataka vide Notification dated 29.09.2018 declared 8 districts and 45 taluks of Karnataka (including 3 coffee growing districts viz., Kodagu, Chikmagalur
and Hassan) as flood affected regions as per the guidelines of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) / National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). Accordingly, these districts are eligible for relief measures as per SDRF/NDRF including rescheduling of existing loans and sanctioning of fresh loans as per the Reserve Bank of India guidelines. The Government of India has provided an amount of Rs.126.71 cr. to the Government of Karnataka under NDRF for compensation to an area of 99,984.86 ha. under crop loss. The Government of Karnataka has extended relief of loan waiver to coffee growers at par with other agriculture loans. A Task Force was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka to assess the extent of damage due to natural calamity and suggest suitable measures. The report of the Task Force has been received and recommendations have been shared with the respective Ministries/Departments.

The Government of India also released both the instalments of Central Share of SDRF amounting to Rs192.60 Crore and Rs.2904.85 Crore from NDRF to Government of Kerala for relief measures.

***
PRODUCTS AFFECTED BY TERMINATION OF GSP STATUS TO INDIA

2298(H). SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV
Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States of America has decided to withdraw the status of developing country/incentives being given on Indian goods under IndiaCentric Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) programme;
(b) if so, the quantum of Indian exports and specific products likely to be affected by this decision; and
(c) the steps being taken/already taken by Indian Government to protect the exports by Indian traders after this kind of policy being adopted by United States of America?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) Yes, sir. The benefits under GSP have been withdrawn w.e.f 05th June, 2019.

(b) India exported goods worth of $ 6.3 billion (as per USTR figures) to U.S. under the GSP programme during the calendar year 2018, which was 12.1% of India's total export to U.S. in the year. The details of the products likely to be affected is available in USITC website.

(c) Trade related issues are a part of any ongoing economic relationship, and will continue to be discussed and addressed as a part of the regular bilateral trade engagement between India the US.
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR A BENEFICIARY NATION UNDER GSP

2299. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether United States is terminating benefits under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP);
(b) if so, the after affects on trade, if these benefits are not restored; and
(c) the norms and eligibility criteria for a beneficiary nation under GSP, including reasons for setting these criteria?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) Yes, sir. The benefits under GSP scheme of United States of America have been withdrawn w.e.f 05th June, 2019.

(b) India exported goods worth of $ 6.3 billion (as per USTR figures) to U.S. under the GSP programme during the calendar year 2018, which was 12.1% of India’s total export to U.S. in the year. The impact will vary across products, depending on the individual product level concessions availing GSP benefits, and other factors specific to each product. The total duty concessions accruing on account of GSP were $ 240 million in 2018, which was about 3.8% of India’s export to the US availing the US GSP benefits.

(c) The norms, eligibility criteria and their reasoning for a beneficiary nation under GSP are mentioned in US Trade Act of 1974

***
BEEF EXPORT FROM INDIA

2301. DR. SANJAY SINH:
   Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
   
   (a) India's current position among beef exporter countries of the world;
   (b) the year-wise details of the beef exported from India since 2014;
   (c) the State-wise share of beef export during last five years;
   (d) the details of the new beef export licenses given during last five years; and
   (e) the details of the beef exporter companies, their ownership details and their beef export
   details during last five years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(Shri Piyush Goyal)

(a) to (e): As per Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020, export of beef (which includes meat and edible offal of cow, oxen, calf) is ‘prohibited’. Thus, year-wise export data, State-wise share of export, details of new beef export licenses and details of beef exporters does not arise.

*****
MEETING OF DRUG REGULATORS OF INDIA AND CHINA

2353. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that drug regulators of India and China had a meeting recently in Shanghai;
(b) if so, the details of discussions held during this meeting;
(c) has our country demanded a clear roadmap from China to meet our longstanding demand to open up Chinese pharmaceutical market for India exports; and
(d) if so, the steps being taken to increase the share of Indian medicines in Chinese market?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a)&(b): Yes Sir, a one-day workshop on regulatory systems in the pharma sector, was jointly organized by National Medical Products Administration (NMPA, erstwhile CFDA) and Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) for the benefit of pharmaceutical companies on 21st June, 2019 in Shanghai, China. The intensive day-long workshop included detailed deliberations in areas such as regulatory overview of NMPA, registration of imported drugs in China, Indian regulatory system, drug procurement system in China, NMPA overseas inspections and compliance guide, API (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient) registration process in China and compliance guide. Both sides also decided to work towards greater coordination and cooperation between the two regulators in future.

(c) & (d): India has requested China to open its pharmaceuticals market, especially for affordable and high quality generic drugs from Indian pharma companies. India has also asked China to clear the various regulatory hurdles faced by the Indian pharma companies on priority, including long delays in product approval timelines, lack of clarity in the current registration guidelines, waiver for bio-equivalence (BE) studies and local clinical trials, drug procurement by local governments in China, suomotu approvals for those
Indian pharma companies which have approvals from stringent regulatory authorities like USFDA, EDQM, Japan, ‘risk based’ batch testing with self-certification etc. The steps taken to enhance and encourage the exports of pharma products, including high standard generics, from India to China are annexed.

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**Annexure**

*Steps taken for enhancing and encouraging exports of pharma products, including high standard generics, from India to China*

i. Creating awareness among Indian pharma companies on the opportunities in China and guiding them to consider product registrations with CFDA to enable higher exports to China.

ii. Circulation of the Chinese list of exempted 28 tariff items and the list of anti-cancer drug covered under these lines amongst the Indian Pharma industry.

iii. B2B meet organized during 20-22 August 2018 at Shanghai, China which facilitated interaction of Indian Pharma companies with Chinese importers and officials of NMPA.

iv. Creating awareness on the Regulatory requirement in China. Pharmexcil, with the support of Department of Commerce (DoC), organized a training program/workshop on product registration guidelines and dossier filing with the National Medical Products Administration (NMPA, formerly CFDA) for the benefit of our pharma companies on 17th December 2018 at Hyderabad.

v. MoU on cooperation in pharmaceuticals executed between Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) and China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Medicines and Health Products (CCCMPHIE) in August 2018.

vi. Help Desk set up in Pharmexcil and CCCMPHIE to help companies from both sides in finding the right partners for their business ventures.

vii. Under the India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) being co-chaired by NITI Aayog from Indian side, a joint working group on pharmaceuticals has been set up by Department of Pharmaceuticals and the first meeting happened on 7th May, 2019 at Beijing wherein the issues impacting market access were raised by the representative of DoC for the consideration of Chinese authorities.

viii. A one-day workshop on regulatory systems in the pharma sector was jointly organized by National Medical Products Administration (NMPA, erstwhile CFDA) and Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) for the benefit of pharmaceutical companies on 21st June, 2019 in Shanghai, China.

*****