DECREASE IN PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF COFFEE

*124. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of coffee has been decreasing in recent years;
(b) the details of coffee production during the last three years, State-wise;
(c) whether the export of coffee has not increased during the last three years and the volume of coffee exported in the said period; and
(d) if so, the action taken to improve the export of coffee?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
(a)& (b) No, Sir. There has been a gradual increase in the production of coffee in the country in the last three years. The coffee production during last three years, State-wise, is given below:

{In Metric Tonnes (MT)}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>2016-17</th>
<th>2017-18</th>
<th>2018-19*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>221745</td>
<td>222300</td>
<td>219550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>63265</td>
<td>65735</td>
<td>70435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>16335</td>
<td>17440</td>
<td>17765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>9800</td>
<td>9600</td>
<td>10900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odisha</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>740</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Eastern Region</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>312000</strong></td>
<td><strong>316000</strong></td>
<td><strong>319500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Post monsoon Estimate
Source: Coffee Board, Bengaluru

(c) The volume of India’s coffee export during the last three years is given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Quantity (MT)#</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>344870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>391815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-19*</td>
<td>353795</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# The total coffee exports include re-export of imported coffees after value addition.
* Provisional based on export permits issued
Source: Coffee Board, Bengaluru

(d) Government of India through the Coffee Board, is undertaking various measures to boost the export of coffee, which include the following:
(i) Assistance towards export of high value green coffee to far off destinations viz. USA, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Finland and Norway and for export of value added coffee in retail packs as India brands

(ii) Participation in International Coffee Conferences / events

(iii) Organising Buyer Seller Meets

(iv) Branding of Indian Coffee through publicity campaigns / Media publicity

(v) Organising Flavour of India - The Fine Cup Award Competition to select fine coffees and expose them to export market

*****
*127. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has not taken up the management of tea plantations of Birpara, Huntapara, Garganda, Lankapara, Dhumchipara and Demdima in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when would Government take over the management of the abovementioned gardens?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

*****
STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 127 FOR ANSWER ON 29th NOVEMBER, 2019 REGARDING “TAKING OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF TEA PLANTATIONS IN WEST BENGAL”.

(a) to (c): The Government of India vide Gazette Notification No. S.O. 260(E) dated 28th January, 2016 authorized Tea Board to take steps to take over the management control of Birpara Tea Estate, Garganda Tea Estate, Lankapara Tea Estate, Tulsipara Tea Estate, Huntapara Tea Estate and Dumchhipara Tea Estate owned by M/s Duncans Industries Ltd. and Demdima Tea Estate owned by M/s Shantipara Tea Co. Ltd. a sister concern of M/s Duncans Industries Ltd. in North Bengal.

Tea Board invited Expression of Interest (EoI) from interested tea companies for handing over the management control of the seven notified tea estates. In the meantime, M/s. Duncans Industries Ltd. and M/s Shantipara Tea Co. Ltd. approached the Hon’ble High Court of Calcutta against the action of Tea Board. The Hon’ble Court vide interim order dated 20.09.2016 has, inter alia, directed that M/s. Duncans Industries Ltd. and M/s Shantipara Tea Co. Ltd. shall take over management of all the seven tea gardens and shall pay both the current and arrear, dues to the workers.

*****
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 129
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29th NOVEMBER, 2019

LIST OF COMMODITIES FOR FREE TRADE UNDER RCEP PACT

*129. SHRI S. MUTHUKARUPPAN:

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

(a) the products, including agricultural produce, included in the list of commodities for free trade under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) pact between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and six other countries, including India;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said pact will pave the way for cheap imports of agricultural produce, etc. to the country; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to protect the Indian farmers and domestic industry?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

*****
(a) to (c) In a trade negotiation, trade liberalisation outcomes in the area of goods are generally arrived at through a process of negotiation based on wish lists and offer lists conveyed to and received from the partner countries. India’s wish lists and offer lists have been based on an assessment of the export interest of its stakeholders and their sensitivities with regard to imports. Accordingly, India’s offer lists and wish lists and the same received from the partner countries have included tariff lines across the range of primary, secondary and tertiary products, while ensuring that sensitive lines in any sector, including agriculture, are kept out/dealt with appropriately in the offers.

The Government held regular stakeholders’ consultations, including with the agriculture and industrial sectors for formulating India’s position in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). These stakeholder inputs and the concession already made in the existing trade agreements were taken into account in the negotiations.

Typically in trade agreements, goods tariff liberalisation creates opportunities for exporters in the country to send their goods at lower/zero duty to their partner countries and similarly creates opportunities for exporters of partner countries to export to the home country. While such liberalisation is done keeping sensitivities in mind, various trade remedies are available to address issues like surge in imports.

It is pertinent that during the 3rd RCEP Leaders Summit which was held on 4 November, 2019 in Bangkok, India stated that the current structure of RCEP did not adequately reflect the RCEP Guiding Principles or address the outstanding issues and concerns of India, in the light of which India did not join RCEP.

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AGARBATTI INDUSTRY

1336. SHRI AHMED PATEL:
    SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

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

    (a) whether Government is aware that large-scale import of the Chinese Agarbatti has endangered Indian Agarbatti industry;
    (b) if so, the details thereof; and
    (c) the action Government proposes to take to save the Indian Agarbatti industry?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(Shri Piyush Goyal)

(a) to (c): Imports of agarbatti are largely coming from Vietnam. Out of total 1,04,097 metric ton (MT) of imports of agarbatti, imports from Vietnam was around 98,000 MT in 2018-19. By Notification dated 31.08.2019, import of agarbatti has been amended from free to restricted with immediate effect.

***
KEEPING RUBBER OUTSIDE THE PURVIEW OF RCEP

1338. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM:

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

(a) whether there has been a widespread protest against India compromising on its domestic interest over the RCEP agreement currently under negotiations;
(b) whether a similar pressure was exerted on India over the ASEAN agreement by major rubber producers Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia to bring rubber under the purview of ASEAN agreement, with India not succumbing to pressure tactics; and
(c) whether the considered opinion of the relevant commodity board, Rubber Board, is that rubber be kept outside the purview of the RCEP?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (c): During the 3rd RCEP Leaders Summit which was held on 4 November, 2019 in Bangkok; India stated that the current structure of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) did not fully reflect the RCEP Guiding Principles or address the outstanding issues and concerns of India, in the light of which India did not join the consensus. Under the existing India-ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (IATIGA), natural rubber has been excluded by India in its goods offer to the ASEAN countries. The Government held stakeholders’ consultations including with commodity boards like Rubber Board. All these inputs are considered in the negotiations for a balanced and mutually beneficial outcomes while protecting and addressing domestic sensitivities.

*****
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1339
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29th NOVEMBER, 2019

PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION BY APEDA TO GRAPE EXPORTERS

1339. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE:

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

(a) whether the Aurangabad High Court in their decision dated 30.9.2016 on Writ Petitions No. 1979/11 and 1314/11 had decided for payment of compensation by Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) to the grape exporters of Marathwada for the losses incurred by them due to rejection of their consignments in Europe in 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action initiated so far by Government for payment of compensation; and

(d) the reasons for inordinate delay in payment of compensation to affected grape exporters of Marathwada?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a & b) The Bombay High Court (Aurangabad Bench), in its judgement dated 30.09.2016 on Writ Petitions No. 1979/11 and 1314/11, had directed the Government to consider the grievance of petitioners and try to redress it as may be permissible.

(c) As per the directions of the Hon’ble High Court, the matter was considered in the Department of Commerce, in consultation with the other stakeholders, and it was decided that it would not be possible to agree to the request of payment of compensation to the grape exporters.

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

*****
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1340
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29th NOVEMBER, 2019

INDIA-ASEAN FTA

1340. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM:

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

(a) the extent of review of the India-ASEAN FTA that has been agreed to by Government of India at the last ASEAN Summit in Bangkok; and
(b) whether the reports of studies to assess the impact of FTAs on India undertaken by the Ministry or any other institutes concerned to it would be made open to the public?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) At the 16th ASEAN Economic Ministers – India Consultations held on 10 September 2019 at Bangkok, the Ministers agreed to initiate the review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) after the conclusion of the RCEP negotiations and to constitute a Joint Committee, as provided in Article 17 of the AITIGA, for this purpose. The scope of the review would be as endorsed by the 12th ASEAN Economic Ministers - India Consultations in August 2015 (Annexure-I).
(b) The Ministry has not carried out any recent study to assess the impact of FTAs on India but regularly undertakes internal reviews of the impact of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) based on the import data.
The Scope of the Review of the
ASEAN India Trade in Goods Agreement

1. The ASEAN India Trade in Goods Agreement was signed on 13 August 2009 and entered into force on 1st January 2010. The 25th SEOM–India Consultation agreed to consider the elements and timing for the review of the Agreement.

2. The Trade Negotiating Committee has not been reconvened for over two years since the completion of the Trade in Services and Investment Agreements in 2012.

3. The proposed scope of the review could include the following:

   (i) Implementation Issues:
       – ROO and OCPs
       – focal point; and
       – verification process and release of consignments
   (ii) Facilitation measures:
       – Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation (CPTF)
       – Focus on SPS/ TBT; and
       – ROO, including PSRs
   (iii) To take into account other negotiations on further liberalization of trade in goods.
   (iv) Sharing and exchange of trade data
   (v) Promoting AIFTA to the stakeholders.

***
BILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH USA

1341. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM:

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

(a) whether bilateral trade negotiations between the USA and India are ongoing and towards what end;
(b) the details of specific demands by the USA to India in these talks;
(c) the details of specific demands by India to the USA in these talks; and
(d) the details of stakeholders who have been consulted in forming India's position?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (c): Trade related issues are discussed as a part of any ongoing economic relationship, and are addressed from time to time as per mutual understanding. US has made exploratory requests relating to greater market access for some of their products while India has made similar reciprocal requests for exploring the possibility of greater market access for Indian products.

(d): Regular consultations with the concerned line Ministries / Departments and other stakeholder’s bodies is a part of the ongoing discussions.

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RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1344 TO BE ANSWERED ON 29th NOVEMBER, 2019

EXPORT OF TOBACCO TO CHINA

1344. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that hurdles have been removed to export tobacco to China;
(b) to what extent this would help tobacco farmers, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, to export more and more tobacco to China and earn remunerative price for their produce; and
(c) the details of Protocol Agreement that India has with other countries to export tobacco and the export to such countries in the last ten years-years-wise and country-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b) : Yes Sir. A phytosanitary protocol has been signed between the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India and the General Administration Customs of the Peoples Republic of China (GACC) on 21st January 2019 at Beijing, China. It is expected that signing of said protocol will push overall export of FCV Tobacco, primarily produced in the state of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, to China. China being the world’s largest consumer of tobacco, revival of exports to China would greatly help the tobacco farmers in Andhra Pradesh since this could lead to spurt in demand and hence better price realization to the farmers due to competitive pricing.

(c) : India does not have any protocol agreements with any other country to export tobacco.

*****
TRADE POLICY REVIEW REPORT

1345. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA:

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

(a) whether the Ministry has begun working on the Seventh Trade Policy Review Report for the World Trade Organisation;
(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
(c) how far has the Government's goals of boosting the Indian share in export of merchandise been reached as outlined in the Sixth Trade Policy review document; and
(d) the share of India's export of merchandise in the world market?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (b): Yes Sir, The Seventh Trade Policy Review of India in WTO is scheduled to take place on 15 & 17 September, 2020. Interaction with WTO Secretariat on information sharing on key Economic and Trade Policies has already begun.

(c) to (d): The Secretariat Report of Sixth Trade Policy Review of India envisaged India to be a significant participant in international trade with enhanced share in global exports from 2% to 3.5% by 2020. As per WTO estimates, India's share in 2018 of merchandise trade was 1.67% and that of services trade was 3.54%.
WITHDRAWAL OF GSP

1347. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:

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

(a) the steps taken to protect the specific sectors such as gems and jewellery, leather and processed food which have lost the benefits under the United States' General System of Preference (GSP);
(b) whether Government has planned to take the issue of withdrawal of benefits by US to the World Trade Organisation, if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the steps that have been taken by the Ministry to absorb the loss incurred by the exporters who were getting GSP benefits of 3 per cent or more?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a), (b) & (c) The impact of GSP withdrawal by USA varies across products. However, at an average level, the duty advantage was a moderate 3.8% of the value of India’s exports to the US which were availing GSP benefits.

In 2018, India exported $ 782 million worth of processed foods, leather and gems and jewellery to USA under GSP (as per USITC figures), which constituted 12.46 % our entire GSP exports to the US, 1.44% of India’s total exports to USA and 1.03 % of India’s global exports in these sectors. In the year 2019 (June – Sept), post GSP withdrawal, the processed foods, leather and gems and jewellery together have registered a growth in exports to USA of almost 3.80 % in the lines where GSP benefit were available earlier, when compared to the corresponding period of the previous year (2018) where GSP benefits were available.

Bilateral trade discussions are a part of any ongoing economic engagement and such issues also form a part of the discussions in India’s ongoing economic engagement with the US. All options available are taken in to account while deciding on the appropriate course of action in national interest.

*****
SHIFTING THE HEADQUARTER OF TEA BOARD

1350. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government has decided to shift the headquarters of the Tea Board from Kolkata; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF **COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**  
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration of the Central Government for shifting the headquarters of the Tea Board from Kolkata.

****
REASONS FOR NOT SIGNING RCEP

1351. SHRI K. J. ALPHONS:

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

(a) the reasons for not signing RCEP; and
(b) whether Government has any action plan to combat the collective bargaining power of RCEP countries?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (b): During the 3rd RCEP Leaders Summit which was held on 4 November, 2019 in Bangkok, India stated that the current structure of RCEP did not fully reflect the RCEP Guiding Principles or address the outstanding issues and concerns of India, in the light of which India did not join the consensus. While RCEP was intended to provide mutually beneficial outcomes for RCEP countries including India, the current structure did not adequately address ambition and concerns of India’s stakeholders.

*****
PRICE STABILIZATION MECHANISM FOR NATURAL RUBBER

1352. SHRI K.K. RAGESH:

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

(a) whether any price stabilization mechanism and replating subsidy for natural rubber is under consideration to be included in the Rubber Policy;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (c) The Government has announced the National Rubber Policy in March 2019. The National Rubber Policy includes several provisions to support the natural rubber (NR) production sector and the entire rubber industry value chain. The provisions on price safety mechanism in rubber sector are included in Section 4.8 of the National Rubber Policy. The provisions on replanting of senile rubber areas are included in Section 4.2 of the National Rubber Policy.

*****
FOREIGN TRAINING OF OFFICIALS

1353. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE:

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

(a) the number of officials from the Joint Secretary and above rank sent for some capacity building/training courses abroad during the last three years;
(b) the details of officials sent abroad for training and the institutions where they were sent; and
(c) whether any written reports were sought from these trainee officials in the form of a feedback, if so, the overall feedback and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRIPYUSH GOYAL)

(a) : A total of 28 officers of Joint Secretary/equivalent and above rank from Department of Commerce and DPIIT had proceeded for attending foreign training courses under Domestic Funding of Foreign Training (DFFT) scheme of Department of Personnel and Training over the last three years.

(b): The institute wise details of officials is as under :

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Name of Institution</th>
<th>Number of officials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Australia New Zealand School of Government, Sydney, Australia</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>University of California, Berkeley, USA</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>JKF School, Harvard University, USA</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Cambridge University, U.K.</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>LSE Summer School, London, U.K.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>University of Chicago, USA</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(c) Yes Sir, The Officers are required to submit the post training feedback/report online/physically. The overall feedback of the officers regarding DFFT training programs is that the programs attended under the Scheme are very good, provide exposure to the international best practices, are enriching and found very useful for future performance.

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