

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 483
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd APRIL, 2018

SEZ POLICY

*483. ADV. NARENDRA KESHAV SAWAIKAR:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that various States have not enacted the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Act and have not framed SEZ Policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has not impressed upon the States to introduce single window system for SEZs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps proposed by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री सुरेश प्रभु)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI SURESH PRABHU)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 483 FOR ANSWER ON 02nd APRIL,2018
REGARDING “SEZ POLICY”.

(a) and (b): Yes Madam. Some States have not enacted the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Acts and have not framed SEZ Policy. The States that have enacted their SEZ Acts are as under:

(i) Madhya Pradesh, 2003, (ii) West Bengal, 2003, (iii) Gujarat, 2004, (iv) Tamil Nadu, 2005, (v) Haryana, 2006 and (vi) Punjab, 2009 .

Further, the following States have framed their SEZ Policies:

(i) Maharashtra, 2001, (ii) Jharkhand, 2003, (iii) Uttar Pradesh, 2007, (iv) Kerala, 2008 and (v) Karnataka, 2009.

(c) and (d): As per Rule 5 sub-rule 5(h) of the SEZs Rules, 2006, the State Government shall endeavour to provide a single window clearance system to the proposed SEZs Developers and Units, under their State Acts and Rules. The Central Government has advised State Governments from time to time for implementation of effective Single Window Mechanism to ensure timely State Government clearances for SEZs Developers and Units.

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 487
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd APRIL, 2018

CHAMPION SERVICES SECTORS

*487. SHRI PREM DAS RAI:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently identified 12 Champion Services Sectors for promoting their development and realizing their potential;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the extent to which the identification of these Sectors will be beneficial for their growth and development;
- (c) whether the Government aims to provide support other than financial support for this purpose; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री सुरेश प्रभु)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI SURESH PRABHU)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 487 FOR ANSWER ON 02nd APRIL, 2018 REGARDING
“CHAMPION SERVICES SECTORS”.**

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) to (d): The Cabinet has recently approved the following proposals of the Department of Commerce:

- i. Inclusion of twelve services sectors, namely Information Technology & Information Technology enabled Services (IT & ITeS), Tourism and Hospitality Services, Medical Value Travel, Transport and Logistics Services, Accounting and Finance Services, Audio Visual Services, Legal Services, Communication Services, Construction and Related Engineering Services, Environmental Services, Financial Services and Education services under the Champion Services Sector initiative.
- ii. Directions to the nodal ministries concerned with these sectors for formulation of action plan covering cross-cutting issues and sectoral action plans in consultation with stakeholders concerned and the Department of Commerce, so as to inter-alia include necessary targets and outcomes, timelines for implementation and other relevant elements.
- iii. Constituting a Committee of Secretaries (CoS) chaired by Cabinet Secretary, including Secretaries concerned for the Champion Services sectors, for timely and regular monitoring of Sectoral Action Plans on a quarterly/more frequent basis. Department of Commerce shall provide Secretariat support for the CoS.
- iv. For situations requiring approvals and provision of funds at a level beyond the Department / Ministry concerned, an earmarked dedicated fund of Rs.5000 Crore to be created to support sectoral initiatives of the identified Champion Services sectors to enable expedited approvals.

The initiative is aimed at formulation of sectoral / cross cutting action plans for focused attention on the identified Champion Services sectors to promote their growth, in the interest of employment generation and increasing exports, with necessary financial and other support.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5528(H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd APRIL, 2018

EXPORT OF SUGAR

5528(H). SHRI HARINARAYAN RAJBHAR:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is exporting sugar to other countries; and
(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise indicating the quantity of sugar exported to these countries?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

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

(a)& (b) Yes Madam, India is exporting sugar to various countries. Export made to the top five countries during the last two years and the current year 2017-18 (till January, 2018) is given below:

Country	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18 (till Jan-18)	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
SUDAN	435039	165782637	318138	153771237	377212	164676189
SOMALIA	474836	189332691	373231	184317959	249760	118931771
U ARAB EMTS	158639	59631946	120459	59330267	186163	86619440
MYANMAR	1160279	459462744	813065	423289007	149177	66278195
KENYA	114286	42993438	85734	44387019	62745	30657660
Others	1501366	573314847	833387	425617059	509441	252386373
TOTAL	3844445	1490518303	2544014	1290712548	1534498	719549628

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5533
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd APRIL, 2018

BUDGETORY ALLOCATION TO RUBBER BOARD

5533. SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that most of the budgetary allocation to the Rubber Board is spent as establishment expenditure on the wages and allowances of the staff, leaving only a small portion of the total allocation for the welfare of rubber farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken steps to optimize the establishment expenditure of the Rubber Board and/or extend financial assistance to the Board to ensure sufficient spending on the stakeholders; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

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

(a) & (b): Yes Madam. Around 77 percent of the total budgetary allocation of the Rubber Board is spent on establishment expenditure, which results in lesser allocation for implementation of the various activities to be taken up for development of Natural Rubber sector including the welfare of rubber farmers. Details are at **Annexure**.

(c) & (d): Several steps have been taken by the Rubber Board to optimise its establishment expenditure which inter-alia includes reorganization / restructuring of offices and establishment, reduction of sanctioned staff strength, centralization of salary and wage payments and merger of different departments in Head office. Efforts have also been made for more budgetary allocation to the Rubber Board and increase of Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) of the Rubber Board.

Besides, Rubber Board is also carrying out developmental activities to support growers through convergence of schemes with Central and State Ministries/agencies. For instance, the Rubber Board implemented skill development activities under Pradhan Mantri KuisashalVikasYojana (PMKVY) in 2017-18 with an outlay of Rs. 6.17 crores. Further a scheme "Rubber Production Incentive Scheme" is under implementation by Govt. of Kerala for providing financial support to rubber growers in which the difference between the Scheme Reference Price of Rs. 150/per kg. and the daily market price is credited to the bank account of the farmer directly on the basis of purchase bills. The Scheme is operated through Rubber Producers Societies (RPS) promoted by Rubber Board.

Medium Term Framework (2017-18 to 2019-20)

Components and approved outlay (Rs Crore)					
S. No	Component	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Total
1.	Rubber Plantation Development & Extension	25.02	31.27	40.33	96.62
2.	Rubber Research	3.00	4.31	6.76	14.07
3.	Support for processing & marketing, infrastructure development and specialised services	7.99	9.11	8.35	25.45
4.	Human Resources Development	3.00	3.94	4.87	11.81
5.	Pending liability	18.00	0	0	18.00
6.	Salary & Pension	142.67	152.66	163.35	458.68
7.	Increase in salary due to 7 th CPC	9.43	10.09	10.80	30.32
8.	Increase in allowance due to 7 th CPC	5.00	5.35	5.72	16.07
9.	Arrear of 7 th CPC	14.96	0	0	14.96
10.	Establishment Cost (other than salary & Pension)	12.00	12.00	12.00	36.00
Total		241.07	228.73	252.18	721.98

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5556
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd APRIL, 2018

FOREIGN TRADE

5556. SHRI M.B. RAJESH:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the country has crossed the low income threshold as per the World Trade Organisation (WTO) norms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this will have any impact on our foreign trade; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the Government's preparedness in this regard?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

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

- (a) to (d) As per the WTO Secretariat publication, India's Gross National Income per capita has crossed US\$1000 at constant 1990 dollars for three consecutive years from 2013 – 2015. Based on these GNI per capita figures, India has graduated out of Annex VII of WTO Subsidies and Countervailing Agreement and requires India to phase out some of its non compatible export related subsidies. However, it is anticipated that there is no immediate adverse impact on our foreign trade.

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5557(H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd APRIL, 2018

EXPORTS FROM MSMEs

5557. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- whether the export of products from the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) is increasing;
- if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise including Rajasthan; and
- the details of the action plan to increase export from Rajasthan?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

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

(a): Yes Madam, India's export of products from the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) increased to US\$ 137.1 billion in 2016-17 from US\$ 130.8 billion in 2015-16, registering a positive growth of 4.8% which was an improvement from the negative growth of 5.9 % in 2015-16 over 2014-15 (US\$ 138.9 billion)

(b): The details of State-wise India's export of products from the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) during last three years are as follows:

(Values in Million US\$)

S. No.	State	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
1	Maharashtra	47631.59	44087.73	46277.90
2	Gujarat	16224.83	16475.51	18108.95
3	Tamil Nadu	15573.16	14407.38	14842.09
4	Uttar Pradesh	8412.27	8126.11	8415.33
5	Delhi	7313.73	6945.72	8020.22
6	Karnataka	7330.10	6824.99	7286.12
7	Haryana	5532.18	5569.22	5649.24
8	Andhra Pradesh	5504.75	4164.57	4206.76
9	West Bengal	4757.98	4089.53	4135.49
10	Telangana	1366.43	3400.59	3572.74
S. No.	State	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17

11	Rajasthan	3512.92	3358.25	3410.44
12	Punjab	3330.72	2980.71	2784.43
13	Madhya Pradesh	1715.60	1866.08	2235.08
14	Kerala	1377.07	1780.75	2119.95
15	Goa	1067.35	1157.90	1362.26
16	Unspecified	4786.51	2271.54	1177.97
17	Himachal Pradesh	565.15	603.75	765.43
18	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	739.09	722.16	676.02
19	Daman & Diu	530.49	581.31	547.42
20	Uttaranchal	568.37	536.59	495.49
21	Orissa	208.46	123.23	306.93
22	Pondicherry	250.39	276.99	248.19
23	Jharkhand	224.06	184.65	150.82
24	Jammu & Kashmir	93.84	71.13	72.50
25	Chhattisgarh	127.05	41.94	67.47
26	Bihar	54.35	49.80	63.18
27	Chandigarh	39.60	41.23	48.46
28	Assam	7.49	7.93	14.31
29	Sikkim	3.21	2.37	4.25
30	Andaman & Nicobar	4.24	9.16	1.13
31	Manipur	0.07	0.13	0.76
32	Tripura	4.00	1.00	0.74
33	Nagaland	0.12	1.63	0.31
34	Meghalaya	34.49	0.12	0.27
35	Lakshadweep	0.16	0.08	0.13
36	Arunachal Pradesh	4.89	5.60	0.01
37	Mizoram	0.01	1.42	0.01
Grand Total		138896.72	130768.70	137068.79

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata.

(c): In order to boost exports in the country, 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 for 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.

Export promotion schemes are uniformly applicable to all States, including Rajasthan.

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5597
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd APRIL, 2018

ISSUE OF IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTS IMPORT

5597. SHRI C.S. PUTTA RAJU:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that Japan has taken India to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) against certain measures taken by the Government on imports of iron and steel products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the WTO compliant measures, including anti-dumping duty used as Minimum Import Price is not compliant with global trade norms; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

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

- (a) to (d) Japan has filed a complaint (DS518) against India's measures of Safeguard Duty imposed on certain iron & steel products, which Japan considers to be inconsistent with India's WTO obligations. Accordingly, Japan has requested the WTO Dispute Settlement Body to resolve the dispute under the panel procedures prescribed in WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding. However, Japan has not challenged the compatibility of the Minimum Import Price measure taken by India since this measure is no longer in force.

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5600 (H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd APRIL, 2018

EXPORT OF FOODGRAINS

5600(H). SHRI RAJESH KUMAR DIWAKER:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) the types of foodgrains and the quantum thereof exported under the Agricultural Products head along with the names of the countries where they were exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to formulate any such plan to enable the farmers of the country to directly export their agricultural products by giving them exemption in export duty and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide incentives etc. to the farmers like loans at the lower rates, storages and cold chain warehouses under the Start-up scheme to promote single farming/cluster based agri-export; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

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

- (a) The details of India's exports of foodgrains during the last three years, product-wise and country-wise, are at **Annexure-I**.
- (b) At present, no export duty has been levied on export of any of the foodgrains.
- (c & d) Promotion of exports of agricultural commodities is a continuous process. The Department of Commerce has several schemes to promote exports, including exports of agricultural products, viz. Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES), Market Access Initiatives (MAI) Scheme, Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) etc. In addition, assistance to the exporters of agricultural products is also available under the Export Promotion Schemes of Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Tobacco Board, Tea Board, Coffee Board Rubber Board and Spices Board. These organisations also seek to promote exports through participation in international fairs & exhibitions, taking initiatives to gain market access for different products in different markets, dissemination of market intelligence, taking steps to ensure quality of exported products etc. Assistance under all the above schemes is available to all the exporters of agricultural products, including farmers.

Quantum and Value of Foodgrain Export from India

Quantity in Lakh MT; Value in USD Million

Description	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
RICE -BASMATI	36.99	4516.28	40.46	3477.98	39.85	3208.60
RICE (OTHER THAN BASMATI)	83.02	3336.84	64.65	2368.64	67.71	2525.19
GROUNDNUT	7.88	760.37	5.43	620.36	7.26	809.60
OTHER CEREALS	35.15	869.11	9.68	261.18	7.35	212.30
PULSES	2.22	199.86	2.56	252.09	1.37	191.05
OTHER OIL SEEDS	2.48	185.04	2.05	147.77	1.93	126.00
WHEAT	29.24	828.75	6.67	164.22	2.66	66.85
TOTAL	196.99	10696.25	131.48	7292.23	128.12	7139.59

Source: DGCI&S

Export of Foodgrains to Different Countries

Value (in USD Million)

Country	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
SAUDI ARAB	1309.99	939.84	758.69
U ARAB EMTS	597.05	648.97	645.45
IRAN	1244.39	606.43	580.47
IRAQ	292.09	376.78	486.85
NEPAL	302.97	302.62	353.59
BENIN	250.87	219.38	253.37
INDONESIA	528.30	216.06	236.22
U S A	274.21	264.39	226.28
SENEGAL	226.61	246.22	190.10
GUINEA	153.02	133.15	182.49
OTHER COUNTRIES	5516.74	3338.39	3226.07
TOTAL	10696.25	7292.23	7139.59

Source: DGCI&S

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5601
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd APRIL, 2018

SERVICE EXPORTS FROM INDIA SCHEME

5601. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is implementing a scheme called Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS); and
- (b) if so, the details thereof including its salient features?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

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

- (a) & (b) Yes Madam. The Services Exports From India Scheme (SEIS) is being implemented by the Government under the chapter 3 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2015-20. The Salient features of scheme are as follows:
- i. An applicant with an active Importer Exporter Code is allowed to claim benefits under the scheme on an annual basis.
 - ii. The List of services eligible for claiming SEIS benefit is as per the Appendix 3D of the Handbook of procedures, 2015-20. The major service sectors which have been provided benefits under the SEIS are business services, communication services, construction and related engineering services, educational and environmental services, health, tourism and travel related and transport related services.
 - iii. The benefit is granted in the form of Duty Credit Scrips which can be used to pay certain duties including Customs Duty. The validity period of the duty credit scrips is 24 months.
 - iv. The benefits are granted on the basis of the Net Foreign Exchange (NFE) earnings in the year and the rates as notified in the Appendix 3D.
 - v. At the time of the Mid-term review of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2015-20, the rates for all service categories were increased across

the board by 2% for the services rendered in the period 01.11.2017 to 31.03.2018

- vi. The service exporters who wish to avail the benefits under the SEIS are required to submit the Aayat Niryat Form 3B online to the concerned regional authorities of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade along with the documents mentioned therein.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5611(H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd APRIL,2018

BORDER TRADE

5611(H). SHRI RAM SWAROOP SHARMA:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the annual trade with China through the border along Himachal Pradesh has almost stopped;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to boost this trade?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

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

(a) to (b): Trade with China through the Border along Himachal Pradesh takes place through Land Customs Station Shipkila. The trade is seasonal in nature and takes place between 1st July and 30th November. Value of trade through Shipkila during theyear 2016-17 and 2017-18 are given as below:-

Border Trade through Shipkila, Himachal Pradesh

Financial Year	Value of EXIM Trade
2016-17	Rs. 8.59 Crores
2017-18	Rs. 0.59 Crores

(Source : CBEC)

Various factors including non-availability of goods across the border, restriction on livestock trade etc. have been reported for this slowdown in trade.

(c): Deputy Commissioner-cum-Trade Authority, Indo China Border Trade via Shipkila, District Kinnaur (Himachal Pradesh) has informed the State Government to set up a designated quarantine station at Chhupan and necessary infrastructure for Trade Mart in order to boost border trade.

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5616
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd APRIL, 2018

ISSUE OF HIKE IN IMPORT DUTIES AT WTO

5616. KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several trade experts and exporters have urged the Government to drag the United States (US) in the World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute mechanism against the move to hike import duties on several products;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government on such demands made by the exporters and trade experts;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any in-depth study on the impact of duty hike by the US on certain products; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

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

(a) & (b): No, Madam. Department of Commerce has so far not received any formal request for dragging U.S. to WTO dispute settlement body.

(c): Yes, Madam.

(d): 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 also requested 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 bilaterally not resolved.

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5627
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd APRIL, 2018

COMMERCIAL CROPS

5627. PROF. SAUGATA ROY

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of reasons for the steep fall in prices of various commercial crops;
- (b) whether the reduction in import duty is likely to affect almost all commercial crops cultivation in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government so far to ensure the cost of production to commercial crops?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

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

- (a) The prices of commercial crops, like other agricultural products, depend on several factors such as demand & supply situation (both domestic and international), trade policies of major consumer and producer countries, quality, prices of alternatives/substitutes etc.
- (b & c) The rates of import duties on agricultural products are fixed keeping in mind the interests of consumers as well as the domestic producers. At present, there is no proposal for reducing the import duty on any of the major commercial crops. In fact, the Government has increased the import duty on Natural Rubber to protect the interests of domestic producers.
- (d) The Government takes all possible steps to ensure that the prices of commercial crops cover the cost of production. For instance, in the case of Natural Rubber, the Government has increased import duty and imposed port restrictions (imports allowed only from Chennai and NhavaSheva) to protect the interests of domestic producers. The Tea Board declares the monthly district-wise minimum benchmark green leaf price, based on auction average of CTC teas. The government also announces Minimum Support Price for commercial crops like Cotton and Jute.

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5630
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd APRIL, 2018

INDIA'S STAND ON E-COMMERCE AT WTO

5630. SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India had taken a hard stand at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) 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 true that on e-commerce, 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

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

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): Yes Madam. 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.

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5632
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd APRIL, 2018

TEA ESTATES

5632. SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Tea Commercial Establishments in the country which are under the Government;
- (b) the number of Government Tea Estates in the country including those which are non-functional; and
- (c) the details of schemes undertaken for development of these Tea Estates?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

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

(a) & (b) :There are 9 tea commercial establishments and 58 tea estates owned by the Centre and State Governments in the country. Details are at **Annexure**. All these tea estates are reported to be functional.

(c): The Central Government through the Tea Board is implementing “Tea Development and Promotion Scheme (TDPS)” for development of the Tea Sector including the Government owned Tea Estates. The Scheme 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.

List of Government owned tea commercial establishments

S. No.	Central/State Government	Commercial Establishment
1.	Central Government	Andrew Yule & Company Ltd.
2.	State Government of Assam	Assam Tea Corporation Ltd
3.	State Government of Tripura	Tripura Tea Trading Corporation Ltd
4.	Government of Meghalaya	Tea Centre, Department of Horticulture
5.	Government of Sikkim	Temi Tea Estate
6.	State Government of Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand Tea Development Board
7.	State Government of Tamil Nadu	Tamilnadu Tea Plantation Corporation
8.	State Government of Kerala	Kerala Forest Development Corporation Ltd.
9.	State Government of Karnataka	Karnataka Forest Development Corporation

State-wise number of Government owned tea estates in the country.

State	No. of Tea Estates
Assam	25
Tripura	07
Meghalaya	03
Sikkim	01
West Bengal	05
Uttarakhand	04
Tamil Nadu	11
Kerala	01
Karnataka	01
Total	58

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5640
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd APRIL, 2018

NATIONAL LOGISTICS PORTAL

5640. SHRI CH. MALLA REDDY:
SHRIMATI ANJU BALA:
SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV:
SHRI B. SRIRAMULU:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to develop a National Logistics Portal/ Integrated IT platform as a single window online market place to link all stakeholders for all logistics related matters;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has set up multi-nodal logistics parks in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the logistics sector in India remains unorganised and the industry is facing several challenges such as high cost of logistics impacting competitiveness in domestic and global market, underdeveloped infrastructure, lack of access to credit, fragmented warehousing and lack of seamless movement of goods across modes etc.; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government for development of logistics sector in the country?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech 2018-19 has announced that Department of Commerce will be developing a National Logistics Portal as a Single Window Online Marketplace to link all stakeholders.

(c) There is no universally accepted definition of a Multimodal Logistic Park. Development of Logistic Park is a continuous process.

(d)& (e) Yes, Madam. The Transaction of Business Rules have been amended in July, 2017 and Department of Commerce has been mandated for integrated development of logistic sector. As a first step, infrastructure status has been granted to logistics activities like warehousing, cold chains, etc. This would facilitate access to long term credit.

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5678
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd APRIL, 2018

TOBACCO TRADE

5678. SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:
SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:
SHRI A. ANWHAR RAAJHAA:
SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:
SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- the details of total value and volume of tobacco trade generated from all tobacco products;
- whether the Government has captured data on the economic significance of trade in terms of generation of employment, boost to consumption of other products from earnings of tobacco trade;
- if so, the details thereof along with the details of the economic value generated by the tobacco trade and the estimated livelihood dependent on tobacco trade;
- the details of the permission given by the tobacco Board for production of Tobacco during each of the last three seasons and the current season; and
- the total production of tobacco by farmers during the said period?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

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

- (a) The details of total value and volume of tobacco trade generated from all tobacco products for last 3 years and current year are as under:

(Qty in MT/ Value in Million USD)

Export	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18 (Till Jan-18)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
TOBACCO MANUFACTURED		278.61		316.68		324.31		276.20
TOBACCO UNMANUFACTURED	219572	680.01	215316	665.33	204447	634.38	151888	484.05
Total		958.62		982.01		958.69		760.25

Import	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
--------	---------	---------	---------	---------

							(Till Jan-18)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
TOBACCO MANUFACTURED		32.76		29.74		34.07		25.08
TOBACCO UNMANUFACTURED	1930	15.90	2883	20.54	1969	11.47	1237	9.06
Total		48.66		50.28		45.54		34.14

(Source: DGCI&S)

-2-

(b) & (c) No Madam. There is absence of reliable data on the economic significance of trade in terms of generation of employment, boost to consumption of other products from earnings of tobacco trade. However, as per the industry estimates, Indian tobacco industry provides livelihood of over 45.7 million people including farmers, farm labour, merchant traders, processors, manufacturers, wholesale and retailers across the supply chain.

(d) The details of the crop size for FCV Tobacco decided by the Tobacco Board for production of FCV tobacco during each of last three seasons and the current season are as under: -

(Qty in Million Kg)

Crop season	Andhra Pradesh	Karnataka	Total
2014-15	172.00	104.00	276.00
2015-16	120.00	100.00	220.00
2016-17	130.00	95.00	225.00
2017-18 (Current Season)	136.00	99.00	235.00

(Source: Tobacco Board)

(e) The total production of FCV tobacco by farmers during the above said period is as under:-

(Qty in Million Kg)

Crop season	Andhra Pradesh	Karnataka	Total
2014-15	190.05	103.40	293.45
2015-16	118.24	71.95	190.19
2016-17	105.35	98.72	204.07
2017-18* (Current Season)	124.93	106.12	231.05

(* estimated production) (Source: Tobacco Board)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5684
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd APRIL, 2018

NEW EXPORT POLICY

5684. SHRI ANIL SHIROLE:
SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:
SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:
SHRI GEORGE BAKER:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is working on new Export Policy within the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has received any proposal from some of the States including Maharashtra and West Bengal to promote shipping and port sector within the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State/UTwise and the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has tied up with the Ministry of Shipping in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the amount of earnings made through exports during each of the last three years along with the amount spent on imports during the said period?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

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

(a) The Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 was launched on April, 2015. The Mid Term Review of the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 was released on 05.12.2017. The Foreign Trade Policy is dynamic in nature and changes in policy and procedure are regularly carried out as and when required through Notifications and Public Notices. Key changes in the mid-term review of the Foreign Trade Policy are as under:

- MEIS (Merchandise Exports from India Scheme) was increased by 2% to MSMEs / labour intensive industries involving an additional outlay of Rs.7310 crore that includes Rs. 2743 crore incentives for two sub-sectors of Textiles i.e. ready made garments and made-ups on which MEIS was raised from 2% to 4%. Similarly, the SEIS (Service Export from India Scheme) incentive rate was increased by 2% for all notified

services such as Business, Legal, Accounting, Architectural, Engineering, Educational, Hospital, Hotels and Restaurants amounting to Rs. 1140 crore.

- The validity period of the Duty Credit Scrips was increased from 18 months to 24 months to enhance their utility in the GST framework. GST rate for transfer/sale of scrips was reduced to zero from the earlier rate of 12%.
- A new trust based Self Ratification Scheme was introduced to allow duty free inputs for export production under duty exemption scheme for the Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs).
- Issue of working capital blockage of the exporters due to upfront payment of GST on inputs has also been addressed. Exemption of IGST has been allowed to schemes like the Advance Authorization Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme and 100% Export Oriented Unit Scheme for sourcing inputs from abroad apart from Customs Duty. The 26th meeting of the GST Council held on 10th March 2018 has further extended these benefits till 01.10.2018.

(b), (c) & (d) The National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Sagarmala was prepared in consultation with all the maritime states and released in April 2016. The NPP aims to foster port-led development in the country through integrated development of India's maritime sector through augmentation of capacity of existing ports, improving their efficiency, strengthening evacuation infrastructure and promoting coastal and inland waterways transportation. As part of the Sagarmala Programme, Master Plans have been finalized for the 12 major ports and based on the same, 128 port capacity expansion projects (estimated cost: Rs. 84,395 Cr and capacity creation of 828 MMTPA) have been identified for implementation over next 20 years.

Additionally, the Ministry of Shipping has brought out the Coastal Berth Scheme for part-funding the development of port infrastructure like construction of break-water, preparation of coastal berths / jetties, undertaking capital dredging etc. Under this Scheme, the Ministry has provided funds for 26 projects in the maritime states including Maharashtra and West Bengal.

(e) India's Export & Import data for last three years and current year upto February, 2018 for Merchandise and upto January, 2018 for Services are as under:

Years	(US\$ Millions)	
	Merchandise Export	Merchandise Import
2014-15	310338	448033
2015-16	262290	381007
2016-17	275852	384356
2017-18 (Apr-Feb, 18*)	273757	419341

* Provisional

(US\$ Millions)

Years	Service Export	Service Import
2014-15	160370	85929
2015-16	155136	85717
2016-17	160683	95469
2017-18 (Apr-Jan, 18*)	142219	84789

* Provisional

Source: DGCIS, RBI

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5707
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd APRIL, 2018

ISSUE OF FOOD SECURITY AT WTO

5707. ADV. M. UDHAYAKUMAR:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken up the issue of food security with the Chief of World Trade Organisation during his last visit to the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is true that the developed countries have not been forthcoming in finding a permanent solution to the problem and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the stand of India on the issue?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

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

- a) The issue of public stockholding for food security purposes is a matter of priority for India in the World Trade Organization (WTO). This has been emphasized by India in the WTO as well as in various bilateral interactions including those with the Director General of the WTO.
- (b) As per previous Ministerial decisions of the WTO, a permanent solution relating to public stockholding for food security purposes was to be achieved by the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the WTO in Buenos Aires, Argentina in December 2017. However, a decision could not be reached due to lack of consensus.
- (c) India has been working closely with other members of the WTO on this issue, especially the members of the G33 coalition of developing countries. India has held a consistent position that the issue is critical for developing countries and an outcome must be achieved as per the Ministerial mandate in the WTO. In the meantime, India's public stockholding programmes continue to be protected by a mechanism put in place by previous Ministerial Decisions of the WTO, which is available in perpetuity.

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5734
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd APRIL, 2018

TRADE AGREEMENTS

5734. ADV. JOICE GEORGE:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), backed by China, would drastically reduce remaining tariffs across a swathe of Asia and push the existing model of trade and manufacturing as far as it could go;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has expressed concerns about chinese overcapacity and its tendency to dump goods in the background of RCEP;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government is losing faith in free trade agreements and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

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

- (a) to (e) The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which is a proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is centred around the ten ASEAN member states and includes their six FTA partners namely India, Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and Republic of Korea. The RCEP is currently under negotiation and aims to facilitate and enhance trade in goods, services and investment flows amongst the participating countries. The Government takes into consideration the stakeholder inputs including domestic sensitivities and export opportunities while formulating its position under RCEP.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5735
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd APRIL, 2018

ASEAN-INDIA FTA

5735. SHRI R. PARTHIPAN:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has noticed that already negotiated Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with ASEAN has hurt the interests of some particular communities such as rubber plantations and palm oil production;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the dairy sector in India will also face stiff competition from countries like New Zealand who have a very strong dairy sector and their economy thrives on the same in case the Government progress with the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

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

(a) & (b):

(i) No, Madam. The India – ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement has not hurt rubber plantation. India has not offered any tariff concession on natural rubber (NR) to rubber producing countries under ASEAN-India FTA.

All the following traded forms of NR are under the Exclusion Lists of the agreements

- HS 400110: Natural Rubber Latex, whether or not pre-vulcanised
- HS 400121: Natural Rubber in Smoked Sheets (RSS)
- HS 400122: Technically Specified Natural Rubber (block rubber)
- HS 400129: Natural Rubber in other forms

(ii) In ASEAN FTA, palm oil has been kept as special product under reduction category and not in the elimination category.

(c) & (d) India is the leading producer of milk in the world and New Zealand is one of the largest exporter of Dairy products in the world. The Government takes into consideration stakeholder inputs including on the dairy sector while formulating India's position in RCEP negotiations.

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5747
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd APRIL, 2018

MEDICAL BENEFITS TO ITPO RETIRED EMPLOYEES

5747. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per a circular of Department of Public Enterprises, the retired employees of India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) are entitled to pensionary as well as medical benefits and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that despite the said circular in the matter, medical benefits are being denied to such employees;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Ministry has received several representations from such employees seeking medical benefits and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon; and
- (e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken on extending medical benefits to the retired ITPO employees?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

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

- (a) to (e): The DPE O.M. No. 2 (70)/08-DPE (WC) dated 26.11.2008 and O.M. No. 2(70)/08-DPE (WC)-GL-VII/09 dated 2.4.2009 provide the guidelines regarding Superannuation Benefits including Pension and Post-Retirement Medical Benefit schemes to be adopted by the CPSEs. The guidelines, however, qualify that the schemes for pension and post-superannuation medical benefits would be subject to the factors like affordability, capacity to pay and sustainability of the CPSE.

ITPO has taken a decision that being a "not for profit" company with the redevelopment project involving a large financial outgo, they will

not adopt a Post-Retirement Medical Scheme (PRMS) for the present.

The Ministry has received representations from employees of ITPO seeking medical benefits. Since the matter was directly within the purview of the ITPO administration, the representations were forwarded to ITPO for consideration and response to the petitioners. ITPO informs that they have duly apprised the petitioners of their decision in this regard.
