

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 182
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

EXPORT OF LIVE ANIMALS

*182. PROF. K.V. THOMAS:

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

- (a) whether the Government has banned the export of live animals like goats and buffaloes to foreign countries, especially to Gulf Countries; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री सुरेश प्रभु)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI SURESH PRABHU)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) and (b) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 182 FOR ANSWER ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018
REGARDING “EXPORT OF LIVE ANIMALS”.**

(a) & (b): As per **ITC (HS) 2018 Schedule 2 - Export Policy** for live animals (Annexure 1), live exotic birds (except Albino Budgerigars, Budgerigars, Bengali finches, White finches, Zebra finches) are prohibited for export. Live horses (Kathiawari, Mariwari and Manipuri breed), live cattle and buffaloes, Live camels and other camelids and Jawa Sparrow are in restricted category under ITC (HS), 2018 Schedule2-Export Policy, where export is permitted under license from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade. All other live animals, including goats, are freely exportable to all countries.

To keep a check on the decrease in population of Indian breeds of equines and on the export of Indian superior germplasm of camel and milch animals and for overall conservation and development of indigenous breeds, the export of above live animals, has been kept under restricted/prohibited category. Further, keeping live animals under restricted category has been made to ensure that export/import of milch animals takes place strictly as per the guidelines of export/import of bovine germplasm issued by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DAHDF).

ITC (HS), 2018
SCHEDULE 2 – EXPORT POLICY
CHAPTER -1
LIVE ANIMALS

NOTE: 1

The term “Cattle” covers cows, oxen, bulls and calves

NOTE: 2

Export of wild animals and their products as defined in Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 including their part prohibited. See restrictions in Part A for details.

NOTE: 3

Germplasm of cattle is classified in heading 0511

S.No.	Tariff Item HS Code	Unit	Item Description	Export Policy	Policy Conditions
9	0101 21 00 ¹ 0101 29 10 0101 29 90	u	Live Horses – Kathiawari, Marwari and Manipuri breeds	Restricted	Exports permitted under licence.
10	0102 21 10 ² 0102 21 20 0102 29 10 0102 29 90 0102 31 00 0102 90 10 0102 90 90	u	Live Cattle and buffaloes	Restricted	Exports permitted under licence.
11	0106 13 00 ³	u	Camel and other camelids (Camelidae)	Restricted	Exports permitted under licence

¹ HS Code 010110 exist till 2009 Policy. However, the same was replaced with 01012100 in 2012 and 2017 Import policy. Accordingly new Codes added

² HS Code 01021010 exist till 2009 Policy. However, the same was replaced with 0102 21, 0102 29 and 0102 31 0102 90 in 2012 and 2017 Import policy. New Codes added

³ Replaced with 01061300 as per Import Policy 2017

12	0106 31 00 0106 32 00 0106 33 00 ⁴ 0106 39 00	u	Live exotic birds except the following species of exotic birds, policy of which is indicated against each	Prohibited	Not permitted to be Exported
13	0106 32 00	u	(i)Albino budgerigars	Free	Subject to pre-shipment Inspection
14	0106 32 00	u	(ii) Budgerigars	Free	Subject to pre-shipment Inspection
15	0106 39 00	u	(iii) Bengali finches	Free	Subject to pre-shipment inspection
16	0106 39 00	u	(iv) White finches	Free	Subject to pre-shipment inspection
17	0106 39 00	u	(v) Zebra finches	Free	Subject to pre-shipment inspection
18	0106 39 00	u	(vi) Jawa sparrow	Restricted	Exports permitted under license. A certificate from the Chief Wildlife warden of the concerned State from where exotic birds (Jawa Sparrow) have been procured to the effect that the birds to be exported are from Captive Bred Stock. Exports if allowed shall be subject to pre-shipment inspection and CITES certificate

⁴ New HS Code 0106 33 00 (Ostriches, emus) added as per the Import Policy 2017

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 185
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

DECLINE IN EXPORT CREDIT

*185. SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM:
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA:

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

- (a) whether the export sector is experiencing credit flow issue and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) whether the export credit provided by banks fell sharply during the last year and the current year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, both in rupee and percentage terms, along with the factors responsible for this;
- (d) whether his Ministry is closely working with the Ministry of Finance to ease credit flow to the export sector; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the other steps taken by the Government to maintain the flow of export finance as per anticipation?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री सुरेश प्रभु)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI SURESH PRABHU)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 185 FOR ANSWER ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018
REGARDING “DECLINE IN EXPORT CREDIT”.**

(a) to (c) Export Credit extended by Scheduled Commercial Banks continues to reflect a steady increase. As per data compiled by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the balance outstanding for export credit by all Scheduled Commercial Banks increased from Rs.2,43,505 crore as on 31.03.2017 to Rs.2,43,890 crore as on 31.03.2018 and further to Rs.2,53,676 crore as on 30.09.2018.

(d) to (e) Yes, Madam. The Interest Equalization Scheme on Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit has been introduced from 1.4.2015 for a period of 5 years to help exporters in accessing credit at reduced rates. Under the scheme, interest equalization @3% per annum has been made available to all exports under identified 416 tariff lines [at ITC(HS) code of 4 digit], and to exports made by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across all ITC(HS) codes. To further support credit-off take by MSME exporters, the interest equalization under Interest Equalization Scheme has been raised from 3% to 5% w.e.f. 02.11.2018 for exports made by MSMEs across all ITC(HS) codes. The benefit of the scheme is not available to merchant exporters.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2072
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

EXPORT OF VEGETABLES

2072. DR. UDIT RAJ:

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

- (a) whether it is true that even after 2 years of withdrawal of temporary ban on bitter and snake gourd, brinjal & colocasia leaf from January, 2017 from European Commission, export of the said vegetables to the EU from India has not been possible and Business potential is remaining untapped, despite their huge demand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that till 2014, huge quantities of leafy vegetables and betel leaves were exported but export of these to the EU has stopped due to fear of suspension of Import Export Code of exporter, though it was never banned and betel farmers especially tribal farmers of the Northeast are being deprived of better prices for their produce;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether APEDA used to give an incentive of 10% on Free on Board (FoB) price of agricultural products to the Agri-exporters under Transport Assistance & Insurance benefits Component ECGC; and
- (f) if so, the actions which have been taken to find out a way to resume all?

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) EU had banned the export of four vegetables namely Bittergourd, Aubergine, Snakegourd and Colocassia Leaves during 2014. The ban was lifted from January 2017. Fresh vegetables are being exported to EU. However, data relating to export of four vegetables, which were banned by EU, is not available separately as these vegetables are exported in mixed consignments. Currently, there is no ban on these products by EU.
- (c & d) There is no restriction on export of leafy vegetables and betel leaves to EU and the exports are taking place. The exporters of agricultural products including leafy vegetables and betel leaves, have to meet quality and phytosanitary standards of the importing countries, EU in this case.
- (e & f) 12th Plan Export Promotion scheme of APEDA had a component of Transport Assistance wherein assistance upto 10% of the FOB cost was provided to mitigate the high freight cost of transport of perishable products, to certain markets. This component was discontinued with effect from 1st October 2016.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2073
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

RCEP AGREEMENT

2073. ADV. JOICE GEORGE:

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

- (a) whether the State Governments have raised several issues before the Government in relation to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the State Government of Kerala has requested the Union Government to revisit and revise the RCEP objectives' so that external competition from developed countries can be prevented;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has conducted or planning any discussions with the State Governments before signing the RCEP; and
- (f) 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 (f): The Government holds regular stakeholders' consultations with industry, exporters, trade experts, concerned Ministries/ Departments and State Governments for taking inputs for formulating India's position in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations. The State Government of Kerala, which has also been consulted, has provided specific inputs that have been taken into account in the negotiations.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2075
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

TRADE WITH BRICS NATIONS

2075. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI:

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

- (a) whether the trade among BRICS nations is less than 5% of their total global trade;
- (b) if so, the details of India's trade with BRICS countries at present, country-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has discussed with different BRICS nations to increase trade and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether rice export to China and green channel for pharmaceutical products also came up for discussion with China;
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (f) the extent to which the trade has been affected due to UK exit from BRICS nations ?

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): No Madam, as per the UN COMTRADE data for 2017, the share of intra BRICS trade is more than 10% of the global trade of BRICS countries. The details of India's trade with BRICS countries during 2017-18 is at Annex-I. Through the established Institutional mechanisms such as Joint Commission Meetings (JCMs) and Joint Trade Committee (JTCs) the Government takes up market access issues for enhancing trade with countries, including BRICS countries. Through the bilateral Joint Committee Group with China market access issues including export of Indian rice and pharmaceuticals were taken up.

(f) The United Kingdom (UK) is not part of the BRICS group.

India's trade with BRICS countries in 2017-18 (in US\$ million)

Country	Export	Import	Total Trade	Trade Balance
China	13,333.53	76,380.70	89,714.23	-63,047.16
Russia	2,113.39	8,573.46	10,686.85	-6,460.08
South Africa	3,825.21	6,834.70	10,659.91	-3,009.49
Brazil	3,063.49	5,498.22	8,561.71	-2,434.73
BRICS Total	22,335.62	97,287.08	1,19,622.70	-74,951.46

Source-DGCIS

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2082(H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

LOGISTICS SECTOR

2082(H). SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:
SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:
SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:

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

- (a) whether the investment in logistics sector is expected to reach 500 billion dollar by the year 2025;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government to meet the said target so far;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to formulate a National Logistics Policy and Multi-modal logistics policy;
- (d) if so, the details of the topics under priority on the basis of which the Government is going to formulate a National Logistics Policy and multi-modal logistics policy; and
- (e) the details of the works done by the Government to strengthen the supply chain and logistics management in the existing global environment during the last three years?

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) There is no study in the knowledge of the Government that suggests logistics sector in India will get the investment of US\$ 500 billion by the year 2025.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c, d & e) Improving logistics efficiency is a continuous and ongoing process. The Government regularly reviews and removes the bottlenecks. The National Logistics Policy & The Multimodal Logistics Park Policy will promote inter-modality and bring in greater efficiency through asset and cost optimisation.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2084
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

BOOSTING TEA QUALITY

2084. DR. K. GOPAL:

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

- (a) whether the Tea Research Association (TRA) is planning to harness front line technologies based on artificial intelligence, chatbots and sensor based machinery to boost tea quality while equipping the age-old industry to face the ravages of climate change;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the TRA has tied up with two start ups that will show the way forward in these initiatives; 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): Yes, Madam. Tea Research Association (TRA) in collaboration with Agnext Technologies Pvt. Ltd. and Alekos Technologies India Pvt. Ltd. is planning to use new technologies such as artificial intelligence, chatbots and sensors to enhance tea quality and mitigate climate change related issues.

TRA has tied up with Agnext Technologies Pvt. Ltd. for the work on leaf counting machine and sprayer machine through use of artificial intelligence and chatbots. Further, it has tied up with Alekos Technologies India Pvt. Ltd. for developing a digital platform for tea estates aimed at addressing soil moisture, planning irrigation and fertilizer application.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2085
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

SOFTWARE FOR TEA AUCTION SYSTEM

2085. SHRIMATI VASANTHI M.:

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

- (a) whether the Tea Board has asked the Industry to devise its own software for reforming the present auction system for tea and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Tea Board would not interfere in the process and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Tea Industry has been advised to go for product differentiation and rise in productivity to improve the industry's sustainability; 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): No, Madam.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) & (d): The Tea Board has been advocating and encouraging product diversification and rise in productivity. Under the "Tea Development and Promotion Scheme", the Tea Board is providing financial assistance for developmental activities like replanting, rejuvenation and irrigation for increasing productivity and sustainability. Assistance is also extended for field mechanization, collectivization of small growers into self-help groups and farmer producer organizations, organic and quality certifications, value addition machinery etc. for ensuring the long term sustainability of the industry. For product diversification, the producers are encouraged by extending financial assistance for manufacturing orthodox and green teas.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2093
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

RCEP MEETING

2093. SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:
SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:
KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:

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

- (a) the details of the countries which are member of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP);
- (b) the details of aims and objectives of RCEP;
- (c) whether RCEP meeting was held in Singapore recently;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the number of countries participated in the meeting;
- (e) the details of the points/matters that were raised by India along with the outcome thereof; and
- (f) the details of the issues discussed and the number of negotiations held in the said meeting?

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): The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a proposed comprehensive Free Trade Agreement between ten ASEAN member states and their six Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners namely India, Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and Republic of Korea with an objective to achieve a modern, comprehensive, high-quality and mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement.

(c) to (f): Yes Madam, the 2nd RCEP Leaders' Summit was held on 14 November, 2018 in Singapore, which was preceded by the Trade Ministers' meeting and a meeting at the experts level. The Leaders of all 16 participating countries acknowledged the substantial progress made in the negotiations and reiterated their commitment to expedite RCEP negotiations. India underlined the importance of achieving balanced outcomes across key pillars of market access, namely Goods, Services and Investment, keeping in view the sensitivities and aspirations of member countries in RCEP.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2096
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

INTEGRATED COFFEE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

2096. DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:
SHRI SATAV RAJEEV:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT

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

- whether the Coffee Board is implementing Integrated Coffee Development Project (ICDP);
- if so, the details thereof along with its salient features;
- the details of funds sanctioned/ utilized for the project indicating the year in which the Coffee Board started receiving funds under ICDP;
- whether the Government has stopped release of subsidy to this project and is proposing to reduce funds allocation to the Coffee Board and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- whether many coffee growers have suffered losses due to crop failure; and
- if so, the quantum of compensation disbursed under the scheme during the last three years and the current year?

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 Coffee Board is implementing Integrated Coffee Development Project (ICDP) with an outlay of Rs.647.46 crore. The salient features of the ICDP is at Annexure.

(c) The Integrated Coffee Development Project (ICDP) was started during the 12th Plan Period (2012-13 to 2016-17) and being continued during the Medium Term Framework (2017-18 to 2019-20). The details of funds sanctioned / utilized for the project are as under:

In Rs. Crore

Year	Release	Expenditure	Remarks
2012-13	146.55	147.21	The expenditure over and above the release is met from Internal Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR)
2013-14	137.61	151.80	
2014-15	157.85	164.02	
2015-16	142.34	172.41	
2016-17	141.54	155.52	
2017-18	180.50	184.26	
2018-19 (Upto 18.12.2018)	122.30	139.28	

(d) No, Madam.

(e) & (f):Due to deficit rainfall in the traditional coffee growing areas, crop failure was reported during the preceding three years and compensation of Rs.47.07 lakhs was made under the ICDP during the last two years of the 12th Plan. During the current year, continuous heavy rains have caused significant crop loss in the coffee growing regions. Coffee Board, in association with the Revenue/Horticulture/Agriculture Departments conducted joint survey in Karnataka and specific survey in Kerala to assess the extent of damage and submitted report to concerned district administrations for payment of eligible relief under National Disaster Relief Fund/State Disaster Relief Fund.

Salient Features of Integrated Coffee Development Project (ICDP)

Component-1: Research and Development for Sustainable Coffee Production, Transfer of Technology

- Evolving planting material with disease / pest tolerance, farming, soil testing, pest management and post-harvest techniques for improving coffee quality.
- Providing support to industry for supply of seeds and improved clone varieties, analytical services of soil, leaf, agrochemicals, supply of bio-agents and traps for control of pests & diseases, advice for resolving field problems
- Transferring technology to the farmers through extension activities, advisory services

Component-2: Development Support to Stakeholders

This component has 4 sub-components:-

- Development support for coffee in Traditional Areas – subsidy for replantation, water augmentation, eco-certification and marketing
- Coffee Development Programme in Non-Traditional Areas – subsidy for expansion/ consolidation, quality upgradation (for pulpers and drying yards) and market support
- Coffee Development Programme in North East Region - subsidy for expansion / consolidation, raising of seedlings through Group nurseries, quality upgradation (for pulpers and drying yards/trays), water augmentation (water storage / irrigation units), support for coffee marketing
- Welfare Measures to children of labourers – subsidy for welfare support to children of labourers

Component-3: Market Development & Export Promotion

This Component has 4 sub-components:-

- Market Development –to provide market information to the stakeholders and undertake promotion of coffee in domestic market
- Export Promotion – for promoting Indian Coffee in export markets through appropriate branding, participation in International trade fairs/ expos, buyer-seller meets, cupping sessions, inviting buyers / roasters delegations to coffee producing regions, etc.
- Incentives for Coffee Exports and Incentives for Value Addition (Small Roasting and Grinding Units)- to maximize export earnings by enhancing the market share of value added coffees and high value differentiated coffees in important high value international markets as well as support value addition for improving returns to small growers and exporters.

Component-4: Establishment expenditure of Coffee Board

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2098
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

HIGH LEVEL PANEL FOR GLOBAL TRADE CHALLENGES

2098. SHRI V. ELUMALAI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has approved the constitution of a High Level Advisory Group to look into the opportunities and ways to address the ongoing challenges in the global trade scenario;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this High Level Advisory Group would meet regularly over the next two months and make specific implementable recommendations in the light of the terms of reference, including each of the areas to facilitate the formulation of future trade policies; 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): Yes, Madam.

(b): A High Level Advisory Group (HLAG) under the chairmanship of Dr. Surjit S. Bhalla, Director of Oxus Research and Investments and 11 other members viz. Mr. Subramaniam Jaishankar, Former Foreign Secretary & President, Global Corporate Affairs, TATA Group; Mr. Rajeev Kher, Former Commerce Secretary and Member, Competition Appellate Tribunal; Mr. Sanjeev Sanyal, Principal Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance; Mr. Adil Zainulbhai, Chairman, Quality Council of India; Dr. Harsha Vardhana Singh, Former Dy. Director General WTO; Dr. Shekhar Shah, Director General, NCAER; Dr. Vijay Chauthaiwale, Foreign Policy Advisor; Dr. Pulok Ghosh, IIM Bangalore; Mr. Jayant Dasgupta; Former Ambassador of India to the WTO; Mr. Rajiv K Luthra, Founder & Managing Partner, Luthra&Luthra; and Mr. Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII, has been constituted by the Government to make recommendations on pursuing opportunities, addressing challenges and findings a way forward amidst emergent issues in the contemporary global trade scenario.

(c) & (d): HLAG is meeting regularly and has held six meetings so far. It is deliberating upon wide range of issues related to international trade and investment in light of the given Terms of Reference.

* * *

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2099
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES FOR COFFEE STAKEHOLDERS

2099. SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:
KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has launched technology initiatives for coffee stakeholders— Coffee Connect and coffee Krishi Tharanga recently and if so, the details thereof, including its objectives;
- (b) the number of Coffee growers covered and the funds allocated for Coffee Krishi Tharanga;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to extend the Integrated Coffee Development Project beyond 12th Plan period with higher outlay and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Coffee Board has identified technological solutions to address some of the perennial coffee production and coffee farming issues and challenges and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of R&D Programmes launched by the Coffee Board aimed at improved Coffee varieties especially Arabica coffee; and
- (f) the estimated total direct and indirect employment in coffee sector?

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. The Coffee Board has launched technology initiatives namely Coffee Connect Mobile App and Coffee Krishi Tharanga for the benefit of coffee stakeholders on 04.09.2018. The Coffee Connect Mobile App is, inter alia, aimed at improving work efficiency of field functionaries and easing the whole process of field activities like digitization of coffee growers, coffee estates, infrastructure, etc. and provide advisory services to the coffee growers. The objective is to bring transparency in activities of extension officers and subsidy disbursement.

The Coffee Krishi Tharanga is aimed at providing customized information and advisory services to increase productivity, profitability and environment sustainability.

(b) Under Coffee Krishi Tharanga 30,000 coffee growers are being targeted during the pilot stage (July 2018 to February 2019). So far about 10000 growers have been covered from Chikmagalur and Hassan Districts of Karnataka.

Fund allocated for Coffee Krishi Tharanga:

Agency / Organization contribution	Amount (In Rs.)
Precision Agriculture for Development India Foundation (PAD IF)	35,04,384
NABARD	15,00,000
Total	50,04,384

In addition, Coffee Board is providing man power support, space for call centre, computer and internet connectivity.

(c) The Central Government approved continuation of the XII plan scheme "Integrated Coffee Development Project" for a further period of 3 years during the Medium Term Framework Period (2017-18 to 2019-20) with an outlay of Rs.647.46 crore. The details of the approved outlay is given in the following Table.

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Components	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Total
1	Research & Development and Transfer of Technology	7.13	9.75	7.86	24.74
2	Development Support to stakeholder	23.62	31.12	31.31	86.05
3	Market Development and Export Promotion	24.75	25.13	25.88	75.76
4	Establishment Expenses- Salary, administrative expenditure, pension	128.10	127.87	135.94	391.91
5	Pending subsidies of previous years	69.00	0.00	0.00	69.00
	Grand Total	252.60	193.87	200.99	647.46

(d) It has been a continuous endeavour of the Coffee Board to address the production and farming issues/challenges being faced by the coffee farmers. The Coffee Board is implementing pilot projects on Hyper Local Weather Forecast, Pest (White Stem Borer) Identification Application, Leaf Rust Disease Forecast and Block Chain Based Market Place App. In addition, the Coffee Board has launched soil health cards and coffee soil health monitoring and management web portal (KSHEMAM) for effective soil nutrient management at estate level. A new stem borer tolerant Arabica line, S.4595 has been evolved.

(e) Coffee Board is currently focusing on collaborative research programmes with international organizations such as World Coffee Research (WCR), based at Texas. Under this programme, International Multi Location Variety Trials (IMLVT) have been established with 30 Arabica varieties shared by different collaborating countries including India for testing their suitability and for subsequent commercial exploitation.

(f) The Coffee sector provides direct employment in plantations to 6.6 lakh workers and indirect employment to 13.4 lakh workers in coffee processing & value chain and other allied activities.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2115
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

INVESTMENT IN SEZs

2115. DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI:

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

- Whether the imposition of Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) on Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units and developers has contributed towards the reduction of investments in SEZs and if so, the details thereof;
- Whether the Government has taken steps to enhance investment in SEZs and if so, the details thereof;
- Whether the Government plans to launch an online platform for SEZs to facilitate ease of doing business for developers and units and if so, the details thereof;
- the details of alternative measures undertaken by the Government for the development of SEZs; and
- Whether SEZs have contributed towards infrastructure and economic development of their respective regions in the past two years and if yes, 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 Government has withdrawn exemption from Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) on Special Economic Zones (SEZs) with effect from 1st April, 2012. The details of investment in SEZs post introduction of MAT is as below:

Sl. No.	Financial Years	Investment * (Rs. Crore)	Increase in Investment (Rs. Crore)
1	2012-2013	2,36,717	-
2	2013-2014	2,96,663	59,946
3	2014-2015	3,38,794	42,131
4	2015-2016	3,76,494	37,700
5	2016-2017	4,23,189	46,695
6	2017-2018	4,74,917	51,728
7	2018-2019 (upto 30.09.2018)	4,92,312	17,395

*Calculated on cumulative basis.

(b) and (d): The following initiatives have been taken in recent years for promotion of investment in SEZs:

- i. The Government periodically reviews the policy and operational framework of SEZs and takes necessary measures so as to facilitate speedy and effective implementation of SEZs.
- ii. Minimum Land Area requirement for setting up of new SEZs has been reduced to 50% for Multi-product and Sector-specific SEZs.
- iii. Sectoral broad-banding has been introduced to encompass similar / related areas under the same Sector.
- iv. Dual use of facilities like Social & Commercial infrastructure by SEZs and non-SEZs entities has been allowed in order to make SEZ operations more viable.
- v. State Governments have been advised to make their own Single Window Clearance mechanism more effective.
- vi. Review meetings with the Development Commissioners of SEZs are held regularly.

(c): In order to facilitate paperless transaction for movement of goods for imports and exports from SEZs, a web-based platform - SEZ Online system has already been implemented. Further, a Mobile app named “SEZ India” having four sections SEZ Information, SEZ Online Transaction, Trade Information and Contact details was launched on 06.01.2017 to facilitate SEZ units/developers.

(e): Investment made, employment generated and exports from SEZs are the quantifiable criteria for assessing development of infrastructure and economic development. Details of investment, employment generated and exports from SEZs during the past two years and current financial year are shown below:

Financial Years	Investment* (Rs. in crore)	Employment* (Persons)	Exports (Rs. in crore)
2016-2017	4,23,189	17,31,641	5,23,637
2017-2018	4,74,917	19,77,216	5,81,033
2018-2019 (April to September, 2018)	4,92,312	19,96,610	3,33,661

* calculated on cumulative basis.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2128
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

TEA PRODUCTION, IMPORT AND EXPORT

2128. SHRI KUNDARIYA MOHAN BHAI KALYANJI BHAI:

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

- (a) the details of production and domestic consumption of tea in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the quantum and value of export and import of tea during the said period, country-wise;
- (c) the share of India in world production and export of tea along with the share of various States/UTs therein, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether there has been a decline in the production and export of tea and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the details of financial assistance provided by the Government to tea growers particularly to small tea growers of Assam during the said period; and
- (f) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to boost the production and export of tea?

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 production and domestic consumption of tea in the country (State/UT-wise) during each of the last three years and the current year is given in Annexure-1.
- (b): The details of quantum and, value of export and import of tea during each of the last three years and the current year is given in Annexure-2.
- (c): The details regarding share of India in world production and export of tea along with the share of various States/UTs is given in Annexure-3.
- (d): During 2017-18, India achieved a high in both production and export. During the current year, 2018-19 (upto October, 2018), Indian tea export is marginally lower by 2.34 M Kgs while there was a short fall of production by 13 M Kgs as compared to corresponding period of last year. Tea production was lower during the current fiscal year due to adverse climatic conditions noticed in the major tea producing States of West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Thereasons for decline in tea exports are attributable to lower imports and consumption in USA, higher production in African countries and availability of excess supply.

(e): The details of financial assistance extended to growers during the last three years and the current year (upto 30.11.2018) under the Tea Development and Promotion Scheme is given in the following Table:

Financial year	Financial assistance (Rscrs)
2015-16	126.85
2016-17	101.39
2017-18	118.91
2018-19 (upto 30.11.2018)*	34.78
Total	381.93

*provisional

Source: Tea Board

The details of financial assistance extended during the last three years and the current year (upto 30.11.2018) to the small growers of Assam under the Tea Development and Promotion Scheme is given in the following Table:

Financial year	Financial assistance (Rscrs)
2015-16	3.83
2016-17	3.28
2017-18	3.28
2018-19(upto 30.11.2018)*	2.53
Total	12.92

*provisional

Source: Tea Board

(f): The Central Government, through Tea Board, is implementing “Tea Development and Promotion Scheme (TDPS)” which inter alia, includes activities for improvement in tea production, productivity, quality up-gradation, research and extension, promotion of exports and value addition through provisions of financial and technical assistance to growers and other stakeholders of the tea industry. The objectives of the scheme is to bring about improvement in tea production, productivity, value addition, change of product mix, welfare measures for tea garden workers and their wards, capacity building of small growers to move up in the value chain, imparting training to the small tea growers etc.

In order to increase export of Indian tea in the international market, focused and sustained initiatives are taken up which, inter alia, includes arranging buyer-seller meets, effecting exchange of trade delegations, participating in international trade fairs and undertaking generic promotion of Indian Brands in key markets.

Table-1 (Production of Tea in India)

State/UT	Production in M Kgs			
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 * (Apr to Oct)
Assam Valley	605.31	607.18	628.91	525.61
Cachar	47.64	50.06	47.40	38.28
Total Assam	652.95	657.24	676.31	563.89
Dooars	185.39	204.26	221.50	167.39
Terai	135.47	145.17	163.07	115.15
Darjeeling	8.84	7.96	3.29	6.78
Total West Bengal	329.70	357.39	387.86	289.32
Others	25.91	28.48	27.23	22.91
Total North India	1008.56	1043.11	1091.40	876.12
Tamil Nadu	161.49	143.67	164.40	109.07
Kerala	56.63	58.61	63.88	36.98
Karnataka	6.46	5.10	5.37	3.25
Total South India	224.58	207.38	233.65	149.30
Total All India	1233.14	1250.49	1325.05	1025.42

*Provisional and subject to revision

Source: Tea Board

Table-2 (Domestic consumption of tea in India as estimated at the end of the financial year*)

Year	Domestic Consumption (in M Kgs)
2015-16	951
2016-17	973
2017-18	1066
2018-19	To be Estimated

Source: Tea Board

* State/UT-wise consumption data is not maintained by the Tea Board.

Table-1 (Country-wise Tea Exports from India)

Country Name	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19 (Apr-Oct)*	
	Qty (M.Kgs.)	Value (Cr.₹)	Qty (M.Kgs.)	Value (Cr.₹)	Qty (M.Kgs.)	Value (Cr.₹)	Qty (M.Kgs.)	Value (Cr.₹)
Russian Fed	48.23	670.57	45.21	683.38	48.10	777.17	25.36	390.86
Ukraine	3.21	45.03	12.09	228.41	9.74	177.15	2.22	33.08
Kazakhstan	10.20	271.36	3.28	48.64	3.75	56.24	6.02	112.64
Other CIS	1.28	30.04	1.21	22.66	1.50	29.19	0.89	18.85
Total CIS	62.92	1017.00	61.79	983.09	63.09	1039.75	34.49	555.43
United Kingdom	20.02	410.90	24.24	632.82	31.19	778.61	9.52	212.87
Netherlands	3.31	82.11	18.84	390.61	21.63	427.47	2.36	90.54
Germany	10.53	262.76	11.13	113.69	16.09	147.94	5.18	153.14
Ireland	1.98	70.18	16.06	316.14	16.07	324.19	1.00	55.40
Poland	6.14	86.51	14.61	405.63	13.23	363.27	3.20	57.49
U.S.A	14.03	364.61	5.20	58.58	12.69	174.40	5.64	177.41
Canada	2.22	64.73	10.79	262.01	10.42	246.20	0.82	30.01
U.A.E	16.15	333.65	6.09	113.49	9.00	154.08	8.57	174.48
Iran	22.13	571.81	5.38	83.72	6.25	96.79	15.72	386.63
Saudi Arabia	3.23	77.37	3.72	90.30	4.50	106.51	2.35	59.48
Egypt (ARE)	3.08	30.80	3.70	97.03	4.26	99.85	5.37	71.34
Afghanistan	1.20	13.90	2.87	41.25	4.08	52.11	0.42	9.76
Bangladesh	9.49	83.88	3.29	140.02	3.70	147.80	1.14	16.20
China	4.79	93.18	2.36	93.55	2.65	102.17	5.44	95.32
Singapore	0.44	11.23	3.39	134.49	2.55	90.90	0.72	17.71
Sri Lanka	1.86	28.65	2.95	87.74	2.50	67.47	2.24	28.73
Kenya	2.69	27.51	1.01	14.77	1.05	15.43	0.10	2.33
Japan	3.27	139.82	0.96	20.03	0.95	16.95	2.30	90.68
Pakistan	19.37	192.61	0.49	13.14	0.51	14.17	8.87	87.71
Australia	3.47	119.51	7.20	77.46	0.46	5.86	1.33	50.14
Other countries	20.60	410.38	21.56	462.94	29.70	592.96	18.38	391.69
Total	232.92	4493.10	227.63	4632.50	256.57	5064.88	135.16	2814.49

*Provisional, subject to revision.

Source: Tea Board

Table-2 (Country-wise Import of tea into India)

Country Name	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19 (Apr-Oct)*	
	Qty (M.Kgs)	Value (Rs.Crs)	Qty (M.Kgs)	Value (Rs.Crs)	Qty (M.Kgs)	Value (Rs.Crs)	Qty (M.Kgs)	Value (Rs.Crs)
Argentina	0.23	2.01	1.00	9.80	0.79	6.86	0.52	4.87
China	0.20	4.25	0.30	6.18	0.31	7.07	0.14	2.13
Germany	0.04	1.52	0.21	3.51	0.02	0.85	0.01	0.4
Indonesia	0.64	10.68	0.67	7.99	0.51	5.13	0.07	0.82
Iran	0.36	3.58	0.20	1.65	0.81	7.96	0.45	3.22
Kenya	3.30	73.37	3.57	70.17	2.65	58.75	0.8	19
Malawi	0.45	6.68	0.41	5.75	0.21	3.37	0.19	2.83
Malaysia	-	-	-	-	0.01	0.06	0.02	0.1
Mozambique	-	-	-	-	0.02	0.15	-	-
Myanmar	0.02	0.48	0.02	0.48	-	-	-	-
Nepal	11.71	118.08	11.59	137.53	12.05	154.65	11.32	139.06
Netherlands	-	-	-	-	0.02	0.32	-	-
Singapore	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.49	3.77
South Africa	-	-	-	-	0.01	0.11	-	-
Sri Lanka	0.18	6.61	0.19	7.63	0.10	5.45	0.05	2.32
Taiwan	0.00	0.05	-	-	0.01	0.28	0.02	0.25
Tanzania	0.06	0.90	-	-	0.03	0.37	0.15	2.14
U.A.E	0.04	0.50	0.03	0.15	0.35	2.65	0	0.37
U.S.A	0.41	4.56	1.12	13.19	0.86	10.57	0.43	8.9
Uganda	0.01	0.14	0.02	0.30	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	0.60	8.93	0.75	11.69	0.91	14.33	0.45	8.79
Vietnam	0.09	0.99	1.45	13.22	0.71	6.74	0.05	0.62
Zimbabwe	0.09	1.15	0.07	0.95	0.21	2.89	0.28	4.14
Total	18.43	244.48	21.60	290.19	20.59	288.56	15.44	203.73

*Provisional, subject to revision.

Source: Tea Board

India is at 2nd position in terms of world tea production with 23% share while in export it stands at 4th position with 14% share. The details of production share of the States/UTs during 2017-18 is given below:

Tea Production Share (State/UTs)

State	Production share over all India
Assam	51.04
West Bengal	29.28
Tamil Nadu	12.41
Arunachal Pradesh	0.84
Tripura	0.66
Kerala	4.82
Karnataka	0.41
Meghalaya	0.04
Nagaland	0.09
Bihar	0.35
Sikkim	0.01
Himachal Pradesh	0.06
Total	100.00

* Tea Production share of Mizoram and Uttarakhand are negligible.

** The tea is mostly blended before it is exported, as such the origin (State/UT-wise) is lost in the process. Hence the data pertaining to the export share of the States and UTs are not maintained by the Tea Board.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2147
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

SUGGESTIONS MADE BY FIEO

2147. SHRI G. HARI:

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

- (a) whether the Federation of India Export Organisation (FIEO) has suggested that the Government should focus priority on boosting exports to check the widening current account deficit;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether imposing curbs on imports may not have a significant impact and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether FIEO has suggested that the Government should not restrict imports to address the rising current account deficit and fall in the rupee; and
- (e) 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 (e): The Federation of India Export Organization (FIEO), in his talk with Press Trust of India, has suggested that the government should not restrict import to address rising current account deficit and fall in rupee. FIEO has also suggested that if the government wants to impose curbs on non-essential items, they should consider product such as high-end electronics goods, refrigerators, watches, gold and high-end footwear and garments. Suggestions received by Government from FIEO/ Export Promotion Councils/other stakeholder time to time, which are taken into consideration as part of the ongoing regular process of review of trade policy.

In order to boost India's exports and reduce trade deficit, the Government has taken several measures through new Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 launched on 1st April 2015, its Mid-term Review released on December 5, 2017 and other policy measures taken from time to time. The key measures includes:

- i. FTP 2015-20 provides a framework for increasing exports of goods and services as well as generation of employment and increasing value addition in the country, in line with the 'Make in India', 'Digital India', 'Skills India', 'Startup India' and 'Ease of doing business' initiatives.

- ii. The main policy objective is to enable India to respond to the challenges of the external environment keeping in view the rapidly evolving international trading architecture and make trade a major contributor to the country's economic growth and development.
- iii. The policy provides the framework for promotion of exports through schemes of incentives on exports and duty remission/exemption on inputs for export production.
- iv. The policy introduces two new schemes, namely 'Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)' for improving export of specified goods by merging five earlier schemes for better coherence and 'Services Exports from India Scheme (SEIS)' for increasing exports of notified services. Duty credit scrips issued under MEIS and SEIS and the goods imported against these scrips are fully transferable. The MEIS scheme now covers 8057 tariff lines at 8 digits level to all countries.
- v. The policy includes measures to nudge procurement of capital goods from indigenous manufacturers under the EPCG scheme by reducing specific export obligation from 90 percent to 75 percent of the normal export obligation.
- vi. The policy provides issue of Advance Authorisation to allow duty free import of inputs, which is physically incorporated in export product within a specified timeline.
- vii. Interest Equalization Scheme on pre and post shipment rupee export credit has been introduced from 1.4.2015 to help exporters in accessing credit at reduced rates.
- viii. 'Niryat Bandhu Scheme' has been galvanised and repositioned to achieve the objectives of 'Skill India' and trade promotion/awareness.
- ix. Trade facilitation and enhancing the ease of doing business measures have been taken with special focus on moving towards paperless working. The Government has launched a Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade (SWIFT) clearances project with effect from 1st April, 2016. The scheme enables the importers/exporters to file a common electronic 'Integrated Declaration' on the Indian Customs Electronic Commerce/Electronic Data Interchange (EC/EDI) Gateway i.e. ICEGATE portal. India also ratified the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA) in April 2016 for enhancing trade facilitation.
- x. A new scheme called "Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES)" has been launched from 1st April 2017 to address the export infrastructure gaps in the country.
- xi. The Mid-term Review of Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 launched on 5th December 2017 provides more incentives for export promotion.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2166
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

APP FOR SMALL TEA GROWERS

2166. DR. P. VENUGOPAL:

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

- (a) whether the Tea Board of India is planning to launch an App aimed at guiding small growers whose share in total tea production is increasing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that the main objective of this App is to establish better two way communication; 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): The Tea Board is planning to develop a mobile application for better monitoring of field activities and for information dissemination to the small growers sector whose share to the total tea production is about 47%. The mobile application would provide better monitoring of field activities like advisory visits, workshops, registration of growers, dissemination of green leaf prices etc., and would also have facility for the growers to communicate with field officials on specific advisory services.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2183
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

INDIA'S TRADE WITH UAE AND JAPAN

2183. SHRIMATI V. SATHYA BAMA:
SHRI PR. SENTHIL NATHAN:
SHRIMATI VANAROJA R.

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

- whether the Government has signed currency swap agreements with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Japan and other countries without bringing in a third benchmark currency like US dollar;
- if so, the details thereof and the Government's gain therefrom;
- whether the Government is expecting rise in exports and imports with these countries; and
- if so, the details thereof and the EXIM trade between India, UAE and Japan in the last four years?

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): As per the information received from RBI, the RBI has recently signed Bilateral Currency Swap Agreement with Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates, effective for a period of three years. While Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates (CBAU) will provide two (2) Billion United Arab Emirates dirham (AED) as the maximum amount for the Swap currency; RBI will provide credit of INR 35 Billion. The currency swap with UAE is a pact between two countries that allows payments for imports and exports (domestic currencies), without bringing in a third benchmark currency like the US dollar. Both the countries are expected to gain in terms of better and stable trade relations. India and Japan have agreed to enter into a Bilateral Swap Agreement of USD 75 billion. This will be in USD and is expected to act as a backdrop arrangement for the foreign exchange reserves. As per the revised Framework on Currency Swap Agreement for SAARC countries, the table given below gives the amount allocated :-

	Amount allocated under revised Framework on Currency Swap Arrangement for SAARC countries						
Country	Afganistan	Bangladesh	Bhutan	Maldives	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Swap Amount Available in US\$ million	100	400	100	200	400	400	400

Each member country is required to enter into a separate agreement with us for operationalizing the same. Currently, the agreements with Bhutan, Nepal and Maldives are in force. These countries can draw the amount in either USD or an equivalent amount in Euro. Bhutan is given a facility to draw the equivalent amount in INR also. Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan have never approached us for operationalizing this arrangement. The Agreement with Sri Lanka lapsed in March 2018. The SAARC swap arrangement is meant as an emergency liquidity support for the member countries in times of temporary difficulties.

(c) : Bilateral trade depends on several macroeconomic factors which inter-alia includes demand side and supply side fundamentals of trading partners. Government of India, through Institutional mechanism such as Joint Commission Meetings (JCMs) and Joint Trade Committees (JTCs) meets its trading partners including UAE and Japan periodically to strengthen bilateral ties in trade, and to address bottlenecks impeding trade, if any. Further, in order to promote Indian exports to its trading partners including UAE and Japan, Department of Commerce under Market Access Initiative (MAI) scheme also provides financial support to Business Federations, Chambers and Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) for organizing trade exhibitions, trade fairs, business meets etc., showcasing Indian products abroad including in UAE and Japan.

(d): Details of India's trade with UAE and Japan in the last four years are given below:-

Values
in US \$ Millions

Year/country	UAE			Japan		
	Exports	Import	Total trade	Export	Import	Total Trade
2014-15	33038.08	26139.91	59167.99	5385.57	10131.36	15516.93
2015-16	30316.50	19445.68	49762.18	4662.85	9850.22	14513.07
2016-17	31175.50	21509.83	52685.33	3845.73	9754.64	13600.37
2017-18	28146.12	21739.11	49885.23	4734.22	10973.35	15707.57

Source: DG&CIS

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2189(H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

EXPORT OF POTATO SEEDS

2189(H). SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY:

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

- whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the share of India in export of potato seeds is negligible despite being the highest potato producing country in the world;
- if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- whether the Government proposes to formulate any effective policy to promote the export of potato seeds;
- if so, the time by which the said policy is likely to be formulated by the Government; and
- if not, 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 & b) Yes, madam. India's share in world exports of potato seeds is negligible. However, in previous three years export of potato seeds from India is showing healthy growth.

HS Code	Product	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19 (April – Sept.)	
		Quantity	US \$ Mill.	Quantity	US \$ Mill.	Quantity	US \$ Mill.	Quantity	US \$ Mill.
07011000	Potato Seeds Fresh/chilled	818.07	0.71	1146.75	1.05	4174.72	2.06	1073.87	0.40

Source: DGCI&S

Netherlands is the largest exporter of potato seed followed by other European countries like France, United Kingdom and Germany.

(c) to (e) There is no specific issues reported by industry/research institutes in export of potato seeds. While no policy, specifically for export of potato seeds is being contemplated, the Government has come up with a comprehensive Agriculture Export Policy to promote agricultural exports from the country. The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) also provides assistance to exporters of horticulture products like potato seeds under various components of its export promotion scheme.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2196
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

PLAN FOR 'CHAMPION' SERVICE SECTORS

2196. ADV. M. UDHAYAKUMAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has set aside Rs. 5000 crore which will be spent on 12 champion sectors of services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the proposed new industrial policy will take the country's industries to the next level; 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) Yes Madam.
- (b) The Cabinet approved the proposal of the Department of Commerce to give focused attention to 12 identified Champion Services Sectors for promoting their development and realizing their potential. These include 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. While approving the above proposal, the cabinet also approved creation of an earmarked dedicated fund of Rs. 5000 Crore to be used to finance sectoral initiatives for the Champion Services sector.
- (c) & (d) After consultations with the stakeholders, Government has decided to formulate a new Industrial Policy which would be a roadmap for all business enterprises in the country.

.....

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2197
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

VALUE OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

2197. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:
SHRI RAJESH PANDEY:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

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

- (a) the details of import and export of India in terms of both rupee and US dollar during the last three financial years 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 respectively and the current financial year; and
(b) the details of the items showing declining trend in both these sectors and the main reasons for slowdown therein?

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 values of India's merchandise exports and imports in terms of both rupee and US dollar during the last four years and the current year are as follows:

Years	(Value in Rs. Crores)		(Value in US\$ million)	
	Export	Import	Export	Import
2014-15	18,96,445	27,37,087	3,10,352	4,48,033
2015-16	17,16,384	24,90,306	2,62,291	3,81,008
2016-17	18,49,434	25,77,675	2,75,852	3,84,357
2017-18	19,56,515	30,01,033	3,03,526	4,65,581
2017-18 (Apr-Nov)	12,57,811	19,44,355	1,94,935	3,01,308
2018-19 (Apr-Nov)*	15,14,370	24,07,274	2,17,517	3,45,643

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata, (*Quick estimates)

(b): Out of the major 30 items, 12 items have declining trend in India's exports and 7 items have declining trend in India's imports during the current year 2018-19 (Apr-Nov) as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year, as detailed below:

(Value in US\$ Million)

Sectors showing declining trend in Export				
S. No.	Sectors	2017-18(Apr-Nov)	2018-19(Apr-Nov)*	% Change
1	Cashew	657.58	435.29	-33.80
2	Coffee	642.75	531.99	-17.23
3	Iron Ore	933.55	787.32	-15.66
4	RMG of all Textiles	11040.58	9976.14	-9.64
5	Marine Products	5232.81	4793.70	-8.39
6	Rice	4960.21	4602.81	-7.21
7	Meat, dairy & poultry products	3117.57	2941.47	-5.65
8	Gems & Jewellery	28025.64	27035.75	-3.53
9	Fruits & Vegetables	1477.06	1439.93	-2.51
10	Tea	545.43	534.94	-1.92
11	Leather & leather products	3512.32	3452.60	-1.70
12	Jute Mfg. incl Floor Covering	224.73	221.97	-1.23
Sectors showing declining trend in Import				
1	Pulses	2464.09	664.00	-73.05
2	Cotton Raw & Waste	826.75	481.25	-41.79
3	Transport equipment	14647.41	11480.36	-21.62
4	Pearls, precious & Semi-precious stones	22657.29	17828.32	-21.31
5	Vegetable Oil	8177.64	6790.28	-16.97
6	Metaliferrous ores & other minerals	5712.36	5352.19	-6.31
7	Gold	23198.05	22083.09	-4.81

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata, (* Quick Estimates)

The main reasons for declining trend of exports/imports include global and domestic factors such as demand and supply in domestic and international markets, currency fluctuations, trade agreements between competing exporting countries with export destination countries, non-tariff barriers by export destination countries, import restrictions by India, cost of credit, logistics costs, etc.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2201
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

RISING IMPORTS FROM CHINA

2201. SHRI PR. SENTHIL NATHAN:
SHRIMATI VANAROJA R.:
SHRIMATI V. SATHYA BAMA:

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

- (a) whether the rising imports from China have taken a heavy toll on the employment-generation potential of manufacturing sector, especially among the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the total quantity and value of products got imported from China in the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) whether the imposition of antidumping duties on Chinese products have failed to provide desired results as they are relatively few compared with the amount of Chinese dumping that takes place; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

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): The rising imports from China and other countries do impact the domestic industry including manufacturing sector and MSME enterprises. Government has been implementing various schemes/programmes to help the micro, small and medium enterprises compete effectively with imports from China and other countries. To promote the domestic manufacturing, schemes like 'Make in India', 'Digital India', Software Technology Parks(STPs), Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) Scheme/ Export Oriented Unit (EOU) Scheme, Special Economic Zone Scheme (SEZ) etc. which provide support for promoting domestic manufacturing capacity in the country, are under implementation.

The details of top 50 Principal Commodity Group-wise India's import from China in terms of quantity and value for the last three years and 2018-19 (upto November, 2018) are attached as **Annex-I**.

(c)& (d) :Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) initiates trade remedial investigations on the basis of a duly substantiated petition filed by the domestic producer with a prima-facie evidence of injury to the domestic industry. Such applications submitted by domestic industry are processed as per the procedure and within the time limits specified under the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and the rules made there under. DGTR conducts investigations and recommends imposition of duty, wherever appropriate, to the Department of Revenue by issuing preliminary/final findings. Acting upon recommendations of the DGTR, the Department of Revenue may impose the provisional or definitive duties. As on 18.12.2018, the trade remedial measures are in force on 105 products imported from PR of China.

In order to encourage MSMEs to approach DGTR in case of unfair trade practices being adopted by the exporters and to make them aware of the available trade remedial measures, DGTR has embarked on a series of outreach programmes. These outreach programmes are conducted by the investigation teams while visiting the domestic industries for onsite verification. Further, a facility of Help Desk has been made available at DGTR to guide the domestic manufacturers about the Trade Remedial Measures.

Top 50 Commodities imported from China in the last three financial years 2015-16 to 2017-18 and current year 2018-19 up to November, 2018									
COMMODITY GROUP	UNIT OF QUANTITY	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19 UP TO NOVEMBER	
		QUANTITY	VALUE IN MILLION US\$	QUANTITY	VALUE IN MILLION US\$	QUANTITY	VALUE IN MILLION US\$	QUANTITY	VALUE IN MILLION US\$
TELECOM INSTRUMENTS			10093.36		11307.83		15594.19		5741.24
ELECTRONICS COMPONENTS			3514.48		4440.91		5496.19		3717.92
COMPUTER HARDWARE, PERIPHERALS			4413.69		4071.73		5026.08		2838.13
INDL. MACHNRY FOR DAIRY ETC			2866.60		2839.89		3418.77		2449.83
ORGANIC CHEMICALS	KGS	1282621407	2416.74	1091826325	2187.94	1323004578	2931.53	1005442304	2483.59
ELECTRONICS INSTRUMENTS			1926.26		2134.42		2531.12		1598.43
ELECTRIC MACHINERY AND EQUIPME			2170.23		2036.72		2463.32		1733.90
CONSUMER ELECTRONICS			2204.17		2151.60		2362.31		1524.74
RESIDUL CHEMICAL AND ALLED PROD			1458.94		1636.77		2168.78		1741.05
BULK DRUGS, DRUG INTERMEDIATES	KGS	158286479	2120.15	169225985	1826.34	191174327	2055.94	135700802	1666.13
AC, REFRIGERATION MACHNRY ETC			1045.79		1249.52		1638.61		1028.48
IRON AND STEEL	TON	4525032	2359.26	2059971	1346.71	2136676	1621.05	1052481	1000.18
PRODUCTS OF IRON AND STEEL			1181.85		1229.86		1469.68		1164.87
SHIP, BOAT AND FLOATING STRUCT			1264.90		1454.44		1208.98		66.67
PLASTIC RAW MATERIALS	TON	536768	823.53	650905	897.57	732093	1178.04	452539	867.61
AUTO COMPONENTS/PARTS			898.78		868.58		1164.41		848.95
OTHER COMMODITIES			854.82		839.80		1093.83		750.59
FERTILIZERS MANUFACTURED	TON	8909000	3261.92	3911288	1244.16	3070012	1065.35	3185075	1374.65
OTHER MISC. ENGINEERING ITEMS			751.06		902.05		1064.11		688.23
ACCUMULATORS AND BATTERIES			510.49		608.78		947.88		708.17
MANMADE YARN,FABRICS,MADEUPS			853.93		798.59		938.28		689.39
ALUMINIUM, PRODUCTS OF ALUMINM	TON	247617	717.59	243756	696.90	252538	794.39	261618	809.82
MACHINE TOOLS			431.70		544.89		748.19		552.15
AGRO CHEMICALS	KGS	33000125	332.65	59676456	506.10	61521061	726.69	45847741	504.24
OTHER PLASTIC ITEMS			477.81		516.24		684.11		417.19
CRANES, LIFTS AND WINCHES			410.30		692.05		671.90		476.80
OTH TXTL YRN, FBRC MDUP ARTCL			487.19		432.17		670.85		402.58
COAL,COKE AND BRIQUITES ETC	TON	2636215	364.40	2266266	402.79	2059469	642.52	1573387	553.78
PROJECT GOODS	KGS	106094311	994.11	107631453	763.00	178084426	609.54	182617187	382.27
GLASS AND GLASSWARE			406.91		478.34		607.66		468.73
MOULDED AND EXTRUDED GOODS			484.41		537.77		607.32		369.02
PAPER, PAPER BOARD AND PRODUCT			362.11		434.50		602.47		357.45
OTH NON FERROUS METAL AND PRODC			399.31		445.35		587.21		413.38
OTHER CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY			352.71		416.10		580.49		485.94
HANDCRFS(EXCL.HANDMADE CRPTS)			412.54		401.23		555.35		293.02
INORGANIC CHEMICALS	KGS	750437087	502.39	497466025	428.99	522224453	531.33	667786377	528.99
MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUM			342.62		388.01		510.51		341.76
CERAMICS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS			576.54		379.57		476.25		300.88
PLASTC SHT, FILM, PLTS ETC	KGS	132723633	294.29	138634310	318.72	183474068	476.02	137651263	522.62
OTHER MISCELLAENIOUS CHEMICALS	KGS	72475754	393.44	70815197	338.58	82808843	420.87	65009579	388.96
IC ENGINES AND PARTS			176.18		265.22		397.18		226.47

PAIN, VARNISH AND ALLID PRODC	KGS	103679581	227.37	114291748	245.61	131814235	360.04	90886529	256.79
SILVER	KGS	775896	384.51	793516	440.69	595672	326.31	518314	259.77
PLYWOOD AND ALLIED PRODUCTS			272.54		254.95		324.45		185.32
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS	TON	879523	243.08	920413	213.11	1032193	313.84	492341	187.86
OPTICAL ITEMS (INCL.LENS ETC)			135.20		137.69		296.79		189.77
ATM, INJCTNG MLDING MCHNRY ETC			215.05		240.20		292.90		196.29
HND TOOL, CTTNG TOOL OF METALS			213.76		182.63		266.76		199.89
FOOTWEAR OF RUBBER/CANVAS ETC.			147.14		167.84		256.03		140.73
COPPER AND PRDCTS MADE OF COPR			185.58		197.24		245.60		163.06
OTHER			3773.59		3742.32		4358.70		3094.27
TOTAL IMPORT FROM CHINA			61707.95		61283.03		76380.70		48352.56
								(SOURCE:DGCS)	
*Figures for the financial year 2018-19 are provisional and are subject to change.									

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2219
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

GRANT OF 'MOST FAVOURED NATION' STATUS

2219. SHRI ABHIJIT MUKHERJEE:

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

- (a) the details of Nations to which India has granted the status of 'Most Favoured Nation' (MFN) in trade of commodities; and
- (b) the details of benefits given by India to those countries which have been granted the MFN Status?

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) Article 1 of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 ensures that Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status is accorded by each country to all 164 WTO member countries equally. The Article provides that members should not discriminate between their trading partners in terms of customs duties, other charges and methods of levying the same in connection with import/ export of commodities. In accordance with this principle, India has granted MFN status to all WTO member countries.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2225
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

CASHEW INDUSTRY

2225. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

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

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that cashew industry in Kerala is in crisis and if so, the action taken by the Government to overcome the crisis;
- (b) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the action initiated by the banks for recovery of loans make the issue critical;
- (c) if so, the action taken by the Government for revival and restructuring the loans of cashew industry;
- (d) whether the Government has initiated action for opening the cashew factories closed due to the crisis and if so, the details of action taken in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to formulate a scheme for providing raw cashew nuts to the industry at a reasonable price and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government proposes to establish a comprehensive project for the revival of cashew industry and 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) Cashew Industry in India has seen a positive growth in the production of raw cashew nuts and export of cashew kernel. Production of Raw Cashew nut during 2017-18 has registered 4.83 % increase to 8,17,045 Metric Tons as compared to production of 7,79,335 Metric Tons during 2016-17 and 21.89% increase compared to the production of 6,70,300 Metric Tons during 2015-16 . Similarly, the export earnings from cashew and allied products during the year 2017-18 has reached at Rs.5903.60 crore (USD 916 million) registering a growth of 13.25% (in rupees terms) over the last year export of Rs.5,212.78 crores (US\$ 778 Million).

However, the Government has taken several steps to address the problems faced by some section in cashew industry

- Basic Custom Duty on import of raw cashew nut has been reduced from 5% to 2.5% w.e.f 01.02.2018 in the current budget session.
- Goods and Service Tax (GST) has been reduced to 5% from 12% for Cashew nuts.

- Under Mid Term Review of Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), Merchandise Export Incentive Scheme (MEIS) for cashew was increased to 5% (from 3%) for cashew kernel and 7% (from 5%) for cashew nut salted/roasted respectively.
- Revised Standard Inputs Output Norms (SION) norms for export of Cashew Kernel, from import of Raw Cashew Nut under Advance Authorisation Scheme, to 5.04 kg from 4 kg.
- Approved the Medium Term Framework (2017-2020) Scheme for Process Mechanization and Automation of Cashew Processing Units with financial outlay of Rs. 60 crore.

(b) & (c) For revival of stressed unit, timely restructuring of accounts can be done as per Banks Policy and RBI guidelines. To preserve the economic value of units, restructuring is done by modifying the terms & conditions of the loan on the basis of mutual agreement between the lenders & the borrowers. Hence, there is no action due on Government with regard to restructuring of loans.

(d) Closure of factories can be attributed to a variety of factors like increased wage cost, default in repayment of loans, lack of proper management, domestic & international demand-supply situation, etc. The Department of Commerce does not have any scheme for re-opening of closed industries.

(e) In order to make available the required raw cashewnuts for the industry, under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana (RKVY), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare (MoAFW) has drawn up strategies to increase domestic production by massive area expansion of cashew and replacing of senile cashew plantations with high yielding varieties in traditional and non-traditional states. Some of the key initiatives are New plantation Development programme, replanting programme of cashew, technology dissemination and transfer of technology programme etc. Efforts made by the Government has produced significant growth in production of raw cashew nut as mentioned in para (a) above.

(f) The Government has no such proposal at present.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2235
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

IMPOSITION OF TARIFF ON INDIAN IMPORTS

2235. DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:

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

- (a) whether the United States of America (USA) has imposed tariff on Indian imports into the USA and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the response of India to the USA imposition of tariff on Indian goods;
- (c) the impact of US imposition of tariff on India's trade and economy along with the response of India thereto; and
- (d) whether such imposition of tariff violates WTO and other agreements and 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) Every Country including the United States (US) and India impose import tariffs at the bound rate or below as per schedule of concessions notified to World Trade Organisation (WTO). However, in March 2018, the US has imposed additional duties beyond their commitment to WTO through a global tariff of 25% and 10% on certain steel and aluminium products, respectively, under Section 232 of the US Trade Expansion Act of 1962. The additional duties are applicable to Indian exports to US, as well.
- (b) Since these additional duties levied by the US are potentially WTO noncompliant, India had challenged the same before the Dispute Settlement Body of WTO.
- (c) Based on the export value in the calendar year 2017 (Source: United Nations COMTRADE – WITS data), duty likely to be collected by the US Government is estimated to be USD 241 million. India also imposed additional duties on US imports to that extent however, the notification is yet to be brought into effect. Though the steel exports to US have declined partially due to additional duties and Countervailing Duties the exports of aluminium have increased in the current year.
- (d) The additional duties levied by the US are potentially WTO noncompliant and several countries including India have challenged imposition before the Dispute Settlement Body of WTO.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2238
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

ISSUE OF REFORMING WTO

2238. SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) :

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

- (a) whether the issue of reforming the World Trade Organisation (WTO) was discussed in the G-20 Summit held in Buenos Aires and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the complex issues between the developed and the developing countries on the subject of agricultural subsidy, e-trade and e-commerce were discussed and any solution was found and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of concerns expressed by India and the reaction of the member countries in the meeting with regard to trade and subsidy in agricultural products?

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. The G-20 Leaders discussed the issue of reforming the World Trade Organisation (WTO) with the Leader's Declaration referring to the need for supporting the necessary reform of the WTO to improve its functioning.

(b) & (c): The G-20 Trade Ministers discussed the current international trade developments, trade and investment aspects of agro-food global value chains (GVCs) and trade and investment aspects of the new industrial revolution. India emphasized the need for urgently resolving differences amongst countries amicably and reiterated its sincere commitment to the rules-based multilateral trading system including its core principles of special & differential treatment, consensus building, transparency, etc.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2245
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

EXPORT PROMOTION STRATEGY

2245. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government is working on an export promotion strategy to boost shipments of chemicals, plastics and allied products sector to push the growth of the country's overall exports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has constituted a sub-group for formulation of the strategy and to deliberate upon the issues of the sector and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of exports of organic, inorganic and agrochemicals, plastics and its products in the last four years and the current year?

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) and (b) Yes. The Department of Commerce has made efforts to push our exports and accordingly have prepared an export promotion strategy sector-wise and region-wise in order to provide boost to our growing economy. The export strategy has been prepared for chemicals, plastics and allied products sector after extensive consultations with the industry, the stakeholders and the concerned Export Promotion Councils (EPCs). In order to resolve export related issues and to enhance our exports, the identified issues are being taken up for resolution regularly with the relevant Departments/Ministries. The action plan prepared for implementation of the export strategy of chemicals, plastics and allied products sector is dynamic and is regularly reviewed and fine-tuned on the basis of interaction and feedback from industry and stakeholders.

(c) Yes, for identifying the constraints faced by the exporting community and to finalise the sectoral export promotion strategy, Sub-groups comprising Joint Secretary, DoC (Commodity Division), Joint Secretary of administrative ministries, EPCs concerned / FIEO were constituted. These Sub-groups held consultations with the stakeholders and the concerned EPCs to identify the problems faced by the exporters and take action to resolve the export related issues. For chemicals, Plastics & Allied products Sector, a Sub Group comprising of Joint Secretary (EP(CAP) Division, D/o Commerce), Joint Secretary (Chemicals, D/o Chemicals & Petrochemicals), Joint Secretary (M/o Environment, Forests & Climate Change), Central Insecticide Board & Registration Committee (CIB&RC) and Chairman, CAPEXIL / CHEMEXCIL / PLEXCONCIL was constituted which met on 3rd July, 2018 and deliberated on the issues of the sector to prepare and finalise the sectoral export promotion strategy. The strategy prepared is being regularly reviewed. The concerned EPCs have also been requested to proactively examine the export performance of their products and suggest areas of growth & opportunities for the Industry.

(d) Details of exports in the last 4 years and in the current year are as follows:-

Value in US \$ Million					
Product Sector	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	April – October, 2018
Organic Chemicals	5394.36	4859.52	4844.39	7130.46	6241.88
Inorganic Chemicals	683.59	628.20	727.63	975.82	727.65
Agrochemicals	1951.77	1965.71	2140.73	2559.39	1941.59
Plastics and its products	7677.2	7636.79	7557.68	8850.18	5367.92

[Data Source: DGCIS]

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2248 (H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

IMPORT DUTY ON CHINESE IMPORTS

2248(H). SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to levy higher import duties to check import of Chinese goods;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that Indian economy is getting affected due to Chinese goods; and
- (d) if so, the measures being 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): Import duties are reviewed and changed by the Ministry of Finance only after extensive consultations with different stakeholders like line ministries, trade and industry, tariff commission etc. This review exercise is generally undertaken as a part of the budget formulation.

(c) & (d) : While foreign trade is integral to our economy, provisions exist to protect the domestic producers and consumers from unfair trade practices by China or any other economy. India has an elaborate and robust legal framework and institutional set up to protect its environment, life and health of its people, plants and animals. Adequate provisions exist under the Foreign Trade Policy to protect the Indian consumers and producers as imported goods are subject to domestic laws, rules, orders, regulations, technical specifications, environmental and safety norms. The BIS standards applicable to domestic goods are also applicable to imported goods. Import of food/edible items are subject to FSSAI standards. Import of plant & plant based products are subject to Plant Quarantine measures and sanitary & phyto-sanitary measures. Import of animal & animal based products are subject to sanitary import permits.

For imports causing injury to domestic industry, trade defence measures like anti-dumping duty, countervailing duty and safeguard duty area available. Whenever Indian industry is affected by cheaper imports, it can seek remedies from the Government under the above provisions. Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) conducts anti-dumping investigations on the basis of duly substantiated petition filed by the domestic industry alleging dumping of goods into the country causing injury to the domestic industry. Similarly, DGTR conducts anti-subsidy investigations against countries subsidising their export products. As on 18.12.2018, anti-dumping duty is in force on 105 products imported from China. Section 8B of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, subject to certain conditions, empowers the Central Government to impose Safeguard Duty on any article imported into India in such increased quantities and under such conditions so as to cause or threaten to cause serious injury to the Indian domestic industry.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2275
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

TRADE BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA

2275. SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
SHRI SATAV RAJEEV:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:
SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:

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

- the details of the imports and exports between India and China during the last three years and the current year, product, value and year-wise;
- whether India's trade deficit with China has increased during the said period and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- whether China has now agreed to import raw sugar from India after several rounds of meeting in this regard and if so, the details of raw sugar to be exported to China;
- the estimated quantum of foreign exchange earned during the last three years and the current year; and
- the other steps taken by the Government to boost export of Indian goods to China to reduce trade deficit?

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): Top 50 Principal Commodity Group-wise India's import and export from China including raw and finished goods for the last three years and 2018-19 (upto October 2018) are attached as **Annex-I and Annex-II**.

(b): Details of trade and trade deficit with China in the last three years and the current year are given below: -

Period	Val in billion USD		
	Export	Import	Trade Deficit
2015-16	9.01	61.71	-52.69
2016-17	10.17	61.28	-51.11
2017-18	13.33	76.38	-63.05
Apr-Oct'17*	6.69	43.46	-36.77
Apr-Oct'18*	9.31	42.58	-33.28

*Data for 2018-19 is provisional (Source; DGCI&S)

From the above table, it may be seen that India's trade deficit with China reduced from USD 52.69 billion in 2015-16 to USD 51.11 billion in 2016-17, but rose to USD 63.05 billion in 2017-18. In the current year 2018-19 upto April to October 2018, our trade deficit with China is to the tune of USD 33.28 billion as compared to about USD 36.77 billion in the corresponding period of April to October 2017 (as per the provisional figures of DGCIS).

Increasing trade deficit with China can be attributed primarily to the fact that Chinese exports to India rely strongly on manufactured items to meet the demand of fast expanding sectors like telecom and power, while India's exports to China are characterized by primary and intermediate products. The major imports from China are products such as telecom instruments, computer hardware and peripherals, fertilizers, electronic components/instruments, project goods, organic chemicals and drug intermediates, consumer electronics, electrical machinery and equipment, iron and steel etc. These imports feed the growing demand in India for such goods which China, due to variety of reasons, is able to export to India at competitive prices. India's exports to China on the other hand include iron ore, cotton raw/yarn, petroleum products, copper and articles thereof, organic chemicals, iron and steel, castor oil, plastic raw materials, pearls, precious or semiprecious stones, marine products etc.

(c): A series of meetings with China's sugar importers have been convened by our sugar exporters and there has been a general consensus on import of Indian sugar by Chinese agencies. China's import quota of sugar for 2018 has been exhausted, and actual exports from India could commence upon announcement of new quota for 2019 by China.

(d): Department of Statistics & Information Management, RBI does not have required information on the estimated quantum of foreign exchange earned during the last three years and the current year.

(e): Government of India has been taking continuous and sustained steps to bridge the trade deficit by lowering trade barriers for Indian exports to China. During the 11th session of India-China Joint Group on Economic Relations (JEG) held in New Delhi on 26 March 2018, the Trade Ministers of two countries agreed to increasing bilateral trade between the two countries in a more balanced and sustainable manner. In this regard various meetings have been held with Chinese counterparts as a part of our ongoing efforts to obtain market access for various Indian agricultural products, animal feeds, oil seeds, milk and milk products, pharmaceutical products etc. in light of the potential of these products/services in the Chinese market. Various protocols have been signed to facilitate export of Indian rice, rapeseed meal and fishmeal – fish oil from India to China.

The Government of India has also taken various measures to extend support to exporters through organising Buyers Seller meetings between potential Chinese importers and India exporters to increase export of sugar, oil meals, Indian rice and tea. In addition, Indian exporters are encouraged to participate in major trade fairs in China to showcase Indian products.

**Top 50 (based on 2017-18 data) Principal Commodity
wise import to China**

Principal Commodity	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Apr-Oct 2017	Apr-Oct 2018*
	Val in million USD				
TELECOM INSTRUMENTS	10093.36	11307.83	15594.19	9014.32	5171.09
ELECTRONICS COMPONENTS	3514.48	4440.91	5496.19	3020.90	3252.76
COMPUTER HARDWARE, PERIPHERALS	4413.69	4071.73	5026.08	2879.08	2537.43
INDL. MACHNRY FOR DAIRY ETC	2866.60	2839.89	3418.77	1934.19	2143.36
ORGANIC CHEMICALS	2416.74	2187.94	2931.53	1578.05	2175.76
ELECTRONICS INSTRUMENTS	1926.26	2134.42	2531.12	1505.12	1410.48
ELECTRIC MACHINERY AND EQUIPME	2170.23	2036.72	2463.32	1344.04	1542.57
CONSUMER ELECTRONICS	2204.17	2151.60	2362.31	1501.28	1382.56
RESIDUL CHEMICAL AND ALLIED PROD	1458.94	1636.77	2168.78	1181.00	1535.75
BULK DRUGS, DRUG INTERMEDIATES	2120.15	1826.34	2055.94	1143.89	1504.47
AC, REFRIGERATION MACHNRY ETC	1045.79	1249.52	1638.61	772.21	936.31
IRON AND STEEL	2359.26	1346.71	1621.05	1096.58	829.67
PRODUCTS OF IRON AND STEEL	1181.85	1229.86	1469.68	829.48	1012.71
SHIP, BOAT AND FLOATING STRUCT	1264.90	1454.44	1208.98	350.60	66.30
PLASTIC RAW MATERIALS	823.53	897.57	1178.04	681.53	762.80
AUTO COMPONENTS/PARTS	898.78	868.58	1164.41	627.71	746.42
FERTILIZERS MANUFACTURED	3261.92	1244.16	1065.35	836.33	1089.74
OTHER MISC. ENGINEERING ITEMS	751.06	902.05	1064.11	612.50	592.46
ACCUMULATORS AND BATTERIES	510.49	608.78	947.88	527.00	608.94
MANMADE YARN,FABRICS,MADEUPS	853.93	798.59	938.28	540.32	605.77
ALUMINIUM, PRODUCTS OF ALUMINM	717.59	696.90	794.39	444.55	711.88
MACHINE TOOLS	431.70	544.89	748.19	386.02	481.87
AGRO CHEMICALS	332.65	506.10	726.69	430.71	464.83
OTHER PLASTIC ITEMS	477.81	516.24	684.11	403.70	367.44
CRANES, LIFTS AND WINCHES	410.30	692.05	671.90	444.13	415.26
OTH TXTL YRN, FBRC MDUP ARTCL	487.19	432.17	670.85	387.37	357.01
COAL,COKE AND BRIQUITTES ETC	364.40	402.79	642.52	367.03	491.80
PROJECT GOODS	994.11	763.00	609.54	374.93	331.97
GLASS AND GLASSWARE	406.91	478.34	607.66	359.79	409.45
MOULDED AND EXTRUDED GOODS	484.41	537.77	607.32	343.70	327.59
PAPER, PAPER BOARD AND PRODUCT	362.11	434.50	602.47	369.39	310.84
OTH NON FERROUS METAL AND PRODC	399.31	445.35	587.21	331.35	352.62
OTHER CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY	352.71	416.10	580.49	299.82	419.40
HANDCRFS(EXCL.HANDMADE CRPTS)	412.54	401.23	555.35	233.62	261.14
INORGANIC CHEMICALS	502.39	428.99	531.33	287.37	469.14
MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUM	342.62	388.01	510.51	274.66	295.01
CERAMICS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS	576.54	379.57	476.25	272.21	262.72

PLASTC SHT, FILM, PLTS ETC	294.29	318.72	476.02	251.67	466.45
OTHER MISCELLANEOUS CHEMICALS	393.44	338.58	420.87	232.64	340.56
IC ENGINES AND PARTS	176.18	265.22	397.18	232.27	203.15
PAINT, VARNISH AND ALLID PRODC	227.37	245.61	360.04	197.33	226.05
SILVER	384.51	440.69	326.31	238.10	241.38
PLYWOOD AND ALLIED PRODUCTS	272.54	254.95	324.45	195.53	160.29
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS	243.08	213.11	313.84	169.66	168.15
OPTICAL ITEMS (INCL.LENS ETC)	135.20	137.69	296.79	219.37	161.34
ATM, INJCTNG MLDING MCHNRY ETC	215.05	240.20	292.90	170.14	170.66
HND TOOL, CTTNG TOOL OF METALS	213.76	182.63	266.76	143.40	176.05
FOOTWEAR OF RUBBER/CANVAS ETC.	147.14	167.84	256.03	148.03	123.28
COPPER AND PRDCTS MADE OF COPR	185.58	197.24	245.60	142.39	144.25
PUMPS OF ALL TYPES	147.66	159.71	238.74	142.13	146.82
Total Top 50	57227.20	56860.62	71166.90	40469.14	39365.77
Grand Total	61707.95346	61283.03478	76380.69685	43455.90305	42584.73
<i>*Data for 2018-19 is provisional.</i>					(SOURCE:DGCI)

						(ANNEX-II)
Top 50 (based on 2017-18 data) Principal Commodity wise export to China						
Principal Commodity	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Apr-Oct'2017	Apr-Oct'2018	
	Val in million USD					
ORGANIC CHEMICALS	472.34	452.81	1559.63	723.20	1434.61	
COPPER AND PRDCTS MADE OF COPR	1144.35	702.00	1548.51	784.25	97.22	
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS	636.11	789.43	1507.00	589.14	1893.35	
IRON ORE	155.28	1449.60	1091.23	528.30	457.92	
COTTON YARN	1474.51	1045.65	858.84	409.33	808.96	
PLASTIC RAW MATERIALS	261.13	244.68	494.87	167.67	532.73	
GRANIT, NATRL STONE AND PRODC	408.59	411.59	461.60	267.65	254.67	
CASTOR OIL	276.65	264.93	424.30	260.44	208.49	
IRON AND STEEL	145.60	344.84	324.12	182.94	139.28	
SPICES	171.47	193.24	314.69	188.95	191.72	
ZINC AND PRODUCTS MADE OF ZINC	20.06	46.53	288.40	153.13	40.85	
ELECTRIC MACHINERY AND EQUIPME	96.65	111.23	250.67	98.07	198.28	
PEARL, PRECS, SEMIPRECS STONES	107.64	140.66	218.65	133.79	147.46	
ELECTRONICS INSTRUMENTS	151.60	231.08	211.08	122.53	151.29	
RESIDUL CHEMICAL AND ALLIED PROD	146.21	206.99	209.27	109.48	135.21	
BULK MINERALS AND ORES	347.60	197.60	207.86	124.37	128.34	
TELECOM INSTRUMENTS	57.75	82.80	166.19	102.05	83.52	
MARINE PRODUCTS	149.71	137.46	164.07	74.49	288.81	
HUMAN HAIR, PRODUCTS THEREO	159.74	173.93	157.34	86.36	69.24	
BULK DRUGS, DRUG INTERMEDIATES	113.08	103.85	154.01	88.55	88.05	
IC ENGINES AND PARTS	94.50	154.41	141.59	87.81	90.93	
INDL. MACHNRY FOR DAIRY ETC	106.08	100.19	139.87	70.50	95.98	
COTTON RAW INCLD. WASTE	196.19	281.84	132.97	28.41	144.03	

DYES	70.06	86.79	126.77	65.21	114.87
ELECTRONICS COMPONENTS	83.21	103.08	117.17	76.57	65.06
COIR AND COIR MANUFACTURES	76.11	92.50	117.12	80.76	65.35
FINISHED LEATHER	109.47	109.25	100.84	61.20	58.89
AUTO COMPONENTS/PARTS	67.12	70.43	79.07	41.52	43.52
PROCESSED MINERALS	201.02	102.65	71.49	47.55	14.95
AGRO CHEMICALS	60.83	60.98	69.33	29.96	38.81
ATM, INJCTNG MLDING MCHNRY ETC	56.19	54.44	68.78	37.67	47.75
DYE INTERMEDIATES	56.47	47.62	63.05	34.36	67.87
PAINT, VARNISH AND ALLID PRODC	14.79	44.55	62.38	31.93	35.41
INORGANIC CHEMICALS	21.72	40.17	61.03	35.55	34.78
PRODUCTS OF IRON AND STEEL	62.46	68.91	59.71	37.79	36.95
RMG COTTON INCL ACCESSORIES	53.90	52.73	58.51	28.20	38.72
SULPHUR, UNROASTED IRON PYRITE	61.47	43.14	58.28	26.81	34.87
OTHER MISC. ENGINEERING ITEMS	60.81	52.76	57.37	33.10	36.34
OTHR RUBBER PRODC EXCPT FOOTW	28.85	29.61	49.98	24.81	38.77
MANMADE YARN,FABRICS,MADEUPS	34.90	36.34	49.65	28.34	32.49
MICA	32.99	36.74	47.96	24.90	32.26
FOOTWEAR OF LEATHER	30.19	35.13	41.95	26.64	23.66
MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUM	18.71	24.93	40.58	18.75	33.62
GUERGAM MEAL	45.59	30.98	38.63	16.93	35.81
MANMADE STAPLE FIBRE	31.49	56.23	38.19	27.41	34.33
COTTON FABRICS, MADEUPS ETC.	37.88	34.89	35.98	22.57	18.49
MACHINE TOOLS	26.13	23.95	35.45	22.20	14.99
AIRCRAFT, SPACECRAFT AND PARTS	17.40	43.38	32.72	24.76	10.48
PLASTC SHT, FILM, PLTS ETC	28.64	30.31	32.17	18.17	20.68
OTHER WOOD AND WOOD PRODUCTS	63.31	34.73	30.93	16.32	18.56
Total Top 50	8344.54	9314.55	12671.83	6321.41	8729.24
Grand Total	9014.55	10172.41	13334.42	6688.63	9306.10
					(SOURCE:DGCIS)
<i>*Data for 2018-19 is provisional.</i>					

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2276(H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

AGRICULTURAL EXPORT POLICY

2276(H). SHRI BHARAT SINGH:
SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI:
DR. C. GOPALAKRISHNAN:
SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE:
SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

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

- the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to boost the export of agricultural products from the country;
- whether the Government has proposed or approved new export policy for agricultural commodities in the country;
- if so, the details thereof along with the salient features of the policy and the reasons for delay in the announcement of the said policy;
- whether the Government will ensure that the agricultural commodities attain self-sufficiency in the country before exporting to other countries; and
- 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)

- Promoting exports of agricultural products from the country is a continuous process. The Department of Commerce also 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.
- & c) Yes, Madam. The Agriculture Export Policy has been approved by the Cabinet on 6th December 2018. The Agriculture Export Policy has the following vision:

“Harness export potential of Indian agriculture, through suitable policy instruments, to make India a global power in agriculture, and raise farmers’ income.”

Inter-alia, the objectives of the Agriculture Export policy are as under:

- (i) To diversify our export basket, destinations and boost high value and value added agricultural exports, including focus on perishables.
- (ii) To promote novel, indigenous, organic, ethnic, traditional and non-traditional Agri products exports.
- (iii) To provide an institutional mechanism for pursuing market access, tackling barriers and dealing with sanitary and phytosanitary issues.
- (iv) To strive to double India's share in world agri exports by integrating with global value chains.
- (v) Enable farmers to get benefit of export opportunities in overseas market.

The envisaged initiatives in the Agriculture Export Policy have been organised in two categories – Strategic and Operational – as detailed below:

Strategic	Policy measures
	Infrastructure and logistics support
	Holistic approach to boost exports
	Greater involvement of State Governments in agri exports
Operational	Focus on Clusters
	Promoting value added exports
	Marketing and promotion of "Brand India"
	Attract private investments into production and processing
	Establishment of strong quality regimen
	Research & Development
	Miscellaneous

- (d & e) The Agriculture Export Policy, while providing a stable policy regime for boosting exports of agricultural products, aims at identifying the commodities essential for food security of the country. Under extreme price situations, a high-level committee would decide on putting export restrictions on such identified agricultural commodities in WTO compatible manner.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2284
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

2284. SHRI L.R. SHIVARAME GOWDA:
SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI ANJU BALA:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to enter into new Foreign Trade Agreements (FTAs) or review the existing FTAs with other countries including ASEAN region for enhanced co-operation and investment and boosting trade and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether India has entered into FTAs with other countries during the last three years and if so, the details thereof along with the names of countries;
- (c) whether there is any provisions for providing relaxation in taxes under FTAs and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any imports and exports have been made with the countries, India has signed FTAs during the last three years and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government is considering to amend several laws to meet the requirements of the international trade agreements ratified by India and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken 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 (e) : Yes Madam. About 22 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) are at various stages of either review or negotiation by the Department of Commerce. The details are at Annexure-I. India has not entered into any new Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with any country during the last three years. The Government implements Free Trade Agreements through specific notifications which are abided by all competent authorities.

FTAs/PTAs under Negotiation/Review:

S. No.	Name of the Agreement	Status
1	India - EU BTIA (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom)	Negotiations launched on 28 th June 2007 in the areas of Goods, Services, Investment, Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Trade Facilitation and Customs Cooperation, Competition, IPR & GIs. Etc. Sixteen rounds of negotiations and a number of inter-sessional and Chief Negotiator level meetings have been held till date. A Ministerial review meeting between Commerce & Industry Minister and EU's Trade Commissioner was held on 15 th April, 2013 at Brussels. After a period of lull, several attempts were made in 2016 to revive the negotiations through stocktaking meetings at the Chief Negotiators level. The 9 th meeting took place in Brussels on 15 November, 2018.
2	India – Sri Lanka Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreements (ETCA)	The negotiations on the text of the proposed Agreement are being carried out with Sri Lanka. Eleven rounds of negotiations have been held so far. The 11 th round of negotiations of the ETCA was held on 3-5 October, 2018 in Colombo.
3	India - Thailand CECA	Early Harvest Scheme on 83 items implemented. So far 30 rounds of India-Thailand Trade Negotiation committee (ITTNC) meetings have been held. The 30 th round was held on 13-14 July, 2016 in New Delhi.
4	India - Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA)	The India-Mauritius CECPA negotiations, put on hold, were revived in March, 2016 during the visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to Mauritius. After resumption, 7 Round of the India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) have been held with the 7 th round held on 19-23 November, 2018 in Mauritius. The negotiations discussed the tariff modalities, Rules of Origin, Services, General Economic Cooperation.
5	India EFTA TEPA (Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland)	The India-EFTA TEPA (Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement) was launched in January 2008 (then known as BTIA). The first round was held in New Delhi during 6-8 October, 2008. The Chapters covered are Trade in Goods, Services, Investment, Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Measures (SPS), Technical Barriers to Trade(TBT), Trade Facilitation and Customs Cooperation, Competition, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), Government Procurement (GP), Dispute Settlement(DS), Trade Defence(TD), Rules of origin(ROO), Sustainable Development (SD) and Legal & Horizontal etc. So far 17 rounds of negotiations have been held with the last round of negotiations held on 18-21 September, 2017 in New Delhi.
6	India - New Zealand FTA/CECA	Ten Rounds of negotiation of CECA have been held so far. The 10 th Round was held in New Delhi on 17-18 February, 2015.
7	India – Israel FTA	Nine rounds of negotiations on India-Israel FTA have been held so far. The Ninth round was held in Jerusalem, Israel from 19-20 February, 2018.
8	India - Singapore CECA (3 rd review)	Second review of India-Singapore CECA was concluded on 01.06.2018. The elements of second review included improvements in rules of origin, Products Specific Rules and tariff elimination on certain goods. Third review launched on 01.09.2018.
9	India - SACU PTA (South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and	Five rounds of negotiations have been held so far, the 5 th round of negotiations was held in October 2010 in New Delhi.

S. No.	Name of the Agreement	Status
	Namibia)	
10	India - Mercosur PTA expansion (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay)	The existing India-MERCOSUR PTA is being expanded. The 3 rd Meeting of Joint Administrative Committee was held in Brasilia on 29 th September, 2016. Both sides have exchanged their initial offers on 14.09.2017.
11	BIMSTEC CECA (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal)	21 meetings of the Trade Negotiation Committee (TNC) have taken place. The 21 st Meeting of BIMSTEC Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) was held during 18-19 November, 2018 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
12	India - Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Framework Agreement (Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and United Arab Emirates)	Two rounds of negotiations have been held so far between 2006 and 2008. The second round was held in September 9-10, 2008. Since then GCC has deferred its negotiations and is currently reviewing its negotiations with all countries and economic groups.
13	India – Canada FTA	Ten rounds of negotiation on India-Canada CEPA have been held so far. The tenth round was held in August, 2017 in New Delhi.
14	India - Indonesia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)	Negotiations have been kept on hold due to RCEP negotiations.
15	India - Australia	Nine rounds of negotiations have been held so far. The ninth round of negotiations was held on 21-23 September 2015, in New Delhi, India.
16.	India-Malaysia CECA (1 st Review)	The 1 st meeting of the India-Malaysia Joint Committee meeting to review implementation of India-Malaysia CECA was held on 8 th December, 2014.
17	Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement among ASEAN + 6 FTA Partners (Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand)	Based on the Declaration of the Leaders during the ASEAN Summit in November, 2012, negotiations for a comprehensive economic partnership between the 10 ASEAN member states and its 6 FTA partners commenced in May, 2013. The 24 th round of RCEP TNC and related meetings were held from 18-27 October, 2018 at Auckland, New Zealand. Six RCEP Ministerial meetings have been held with the 6 th RCEP Ministerial Meeting held on 30-31 August, 2018 at Singapore. Two RCEP Leaders' Summit have been held with the 2 nd Summit held on 14 November, 2018 at Singapore. The negotiations cover a number of areas like trade in goods, services, investment, intellectual property, economic & technical cooperation, electronic commerce, government procurement, competition and legal and institutional issues.
18	India-ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam)(1 st Review)	The decision to start the review of ASEAN India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) was taken during the 12 th AEM – India Consultations held in August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur. The 34 th AITNC meeting of the AITIGA was held on 6 April, 2016 in Kuala Lumpur wherein India has suggested to set up Working Groups in line with the scope of review decided in the 12 th AEM – India consultations. Since then, India has been consistently requesting ASEAN to initiate the review of AITIGA.
19	India-Korea CEPA review	Seven rounds of negotiations for upgrading India-Korea CEPA have been held so far with 7 th round held on 11-12 December, 2018 in Seoul.
20	India-Iran PTA	So far, two meetings have taken place. The last meeting was held at New

S. No.	Name of the Agreement	Status
		Delhi on 01-02 September, 2016.
21	India-Peru Trade Agreement	The 3 rd round of negotiations was held on 4-7 December, 2018 in New Delhi.
22	India-EAEU Technical Consultations	The first round of technical consultations was held on 30-31 January, 2018 in New Delhi..

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2291
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

TRADE WITH CHINA

2291. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:

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

- the details of yearly trade deficit with China since 2014 along with the steps taken/ trade agreements signed to reduce trade deficit and the expected deficit post implementation of these steps;
- whether India intends to export upto 2 million tonnes of sugar to China and if so, the details thereof;
- whether China has already exhausted its import quota for this year and if so, the manner in which the Government is expecting to achieve its export target;
- the details of goods imported in India from China through e-commerce firms since 2014 along with the details of products from China to India which are exempted from being channelized through the customs route;
- whether China Post subsidizes delivery of products shipped to India and if so, the steps taken to protest/counter; and
- the details of cases registered where Chinese e-commerce sites have misused Foreign Trade (D & R) Act to export items priced under Rs. 5,000 to India by misusing identities of NRIs in West Asia along with the details of actions taken thereafter?

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 the imports and exports between India and China during 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 (April to October 2018) are given below: -

Period	Val in billion USD		
	Export	Import	Trade Deficit
2014-15	11.96	60.41	-48.45
2015-16	9.01	61.71	-52.69
2016-17	10.17	61.28	-51.11
2017-18	13.33	76.38	-63.05
Apr-Oct'18*	9.31	42.58	-33.28

*Data for 2018-19 is provisional

(Source; DGCI&S)

Government of India has been taking continuous and sustained steps to bridge trade deficit by lowering the trade barriers for Indian exports to China. During the 11th session of India-China Joint Group on Economic Relations(JEG) held in New Delhi on 26 March 2018, the Trade Ministers of two countries agreed to increasing bilateral trade between the two countries in a balanced and more sustainable manner. In this regard various meetings have been held with Chinese counterparts as a part of ongoing efforts to seek market access for various Indian agricultural products, animal feeds, oil seeds, milk and milk products, pharmaceutical products etc., in light of the potential of these products/services in the Chinese market. Also protocols have been signed to facilitate export of Indian rice, rapeseed meal and fishmeal – fish oil from India to China.

(b) & (c): China usually imports 4-5 Million MT of sugar through their importers, and issues licenses for import in two tranches during a year. The licenses issued in July 2018 have already been consumed and the new quota for 2019 imports by China will enable Indian sugar exporters to plan their future exports.

(d)to (f):The Department of Revenue mandates border checks and applicable duties on the goods crossing the border irrespective of the mode of transaction for such inputs. All goods imported into the country have to be channelized through customs. No credible information has been received on any specific subsidy being extended by China Post for delivery to India.

DGFT has not reported any case against Chinese e-commerce sites for misuse of FT (D & R) Act.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2296
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

SHARE OF EXPORT IN GDP

2296. SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:

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

- (a) the details of share of exports in the annual GDP for the last 20 years;
- (b) whether the share of exports in GDP for the year declined to fourteen-year low and if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of the annual rate of growth of exports and the corresponding annual rate of growth of GDP for the last 20 years?

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 (c): The details of growth rate of exports and GDP and share of exports in GDP at current price for the last 20 years is given at **Annexure-I**, which reveals that the share of export in GDP was 19.05% during 2017-18 and 17.55% in 2004-05. However, the share has decreased in the last 4 years. The growth in export has not been commensurate with GDP growth because of global slowdown leading to lower demand in international markets and lower commodity prices, currency fluctuations, trade agreements between competing exporting countries with export destination countries, non-tariff barriers by export destination countries, cost of credit, logistics costs, etc.

Statement referred to in reply of part (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred question no. 2296 for answer on 24th December 2018.

Growth rate of Exports and GDP and Share of Exports to GDP at Current Price:

Sr. No.	Year	Exports	Growth Rate (%)	GDP	Growth Rate (%)	% Share of Export in GDP
1	1997-98	1,65,203	--	15,72,394	--	10.51
2	1998-99	1,95,280	18.21	18,03,378	14.69	10.83
3	1999-00	2,27,697	16.60	20,12,198	11.58	11.32
4	2000-01	2,78,126	22.15	21,68,652	7.78	12.82
5	2001-02	2,90,757	4.54	23,48,330	8.29	12.38
6	2002-03	3,55,556	22.29	25,30,663	7.76	14.05
7	2003-04	4,17,425	17.40	28,37,900	12.14	14.71
8	2004-05	5,69,051	36.32	32,42,209	14.25	17.55
9	2005-06	7,12,087	25.14	36,93,369	13.92	19.28
10	2006-07	9,04,872	27.07	42,94,706	16.28	21.07
11	2007-08	10,18,907	12.60	49,87,090	16.12	20.43
12	2008-09	13,28,765	30.41	56,30,063	12.89	23.60
13	2009-10	12,98,780	-2.26	64,77,827	15.06	20.05
14	2010-11	17,10,193	31.68	77,84,115	20.17	21.97
15	2011-12	21,43,931	25.36	87,36,329	12.23	24.54
16	2012-13	24,39,707	13.80	99,44,013	13.82	24.53
17	2013-14	28,56,781	17.10	1,12,33,522	12.97	25.43
18	2014-15	28,63,636	0.24	1,24,67,959	10.99	22.97
19	2015-16	27,28,641	-4.71	1,37,64,037	10.40	19.82
20	2016-17	29,46,243	7.97	1,52,53,714	10.82	19.31
21	2017-18 ^{PE}	31,94,507	8.43	1,67,73,145	9.96	19.05

PE: Provisional Estimates

Source: 1. 1997-98 to 2003-2004-Statement 1: Macro Economic Aggregates and Population, National Accounts Statistics Back Series 2011.

2. 2004-05 to 2010-11-Statement 1: Macro Economic Aggregates, National Accounts Statistics 2014.

3. 2011-12 to 2016-17-Statement 1.1-Key aggregates of National Income at current prices, First Revised Estimates of National Income, Consumption Expenditure, Saving and Capital Formation 2016-17 published on 31.01.2018.

4. 2017-18-Press release, CSO, MoSPI dated 31.05.2018

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2300
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th DECEMBER, 2018

COMPETITIVENESS OF EXPORTERS

2300. SHRI OM BIRLA:

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

- whether the Government has taken note of the fact that significant time lag in providing refunds has supposedly eroded the competitiveness of exporters in the country;
- if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;
- whether the Government has also taken note of the fact that an estimated 15-20 per cent of the working capital is already stuck up with the Government for refunds; and
- if so, the details of the Government's plan to release stuck up capital expeditiously so that the situation does not deteriorate any further?

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):

- Initially there was delay in the Refunds of Input Tax Credit (ITC) and Integrated Goods & Services Tax (IGST). However, the process has now been largely streamlined. Overall disposal rate of refunds is 93.44%. The refund of IGST paid on goods exported out of India is fully automated. In nearly 75% cases, the IGST refund is sanctioned within 5 days of filing of relevant GST Returns by exporters. As on 18th December, 2018, total GST refunds disposed of are as under:

(Amount Rs. in Crore)

	Received	Disposed	Rate of Disposal
ITC refunds	51,417	46,873	91.16%
IGST refunds	51,410	49,211	95.72%
Total refunds	1,02,827	96,084	93.44%

- Refunds of the Drawback, Terminal Excise Duty and Central Sales Tax on Deemed Exports are made as per the budgetary allocations received in the

Department of Commerce. In case of any delay in making refund, there is a provision of payment of applicable interest.

(c) and (d): There is blockage of working capital due to delays in refunds. Government has taken following initiatives in this regard to expedite refund process:

- (i) Three special refund drives have been carried out for assisting exporters in correct filing of application for refund and expediting disposal of the refund applications.
- (ii) Some refund claims get struck up due to errors like incorrect information filed by exporters for which necessary mechanism has been provided. The officers have been directed to pro-actively and expeditiously process such claims stuck due to various errors.
- (iii) The refund of IGST paid on goods exported out of India has been made fully automated.
