

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2774 (H)**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST, 2022**

**APEDA**

2774(H). SHRI NABA KUMAR SARANIA:

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

- (a) whether special attention has been given towards North Eastern Region under Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA); and
- (b) if so, the details in this regard?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

**(a) & (b):** Yes, Sir. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has made special efforts to promote exports of agriculture products from the North-Eastern Region (NER). APEDA provides assistance to exporters under various components of its export assistance scheme viz. Development of Export Infrastructure, Quality Development and Market Development. The exporters from NER are entitled to higher levels of assistance i.e. up to 75% (compared to 50% for exporters from other regions) for various activities/ sub-components under the scheme. APEDA has also organized several sensitization meetings/ programs in the NER, in association with State Departments, State Agriculture Universities and Krishi Vikash Kendras for identification of progressive farmers' groups and strengthening the export linkage for Farmer-Producer Organisations (FPOs)/ Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs). A number of International Buyer-Seller Meets have also been organized for the exporters of NER.

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2779**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST, 2022**

**AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS**

2779. SHRI RAMESH CHAND BIND:  
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:  
SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR:  
DR. SUJAY RADHAKRISHNA VIKHE PATIL:  
DR. KRISHNA PAL SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI RAJENDRA DHEDYA GAVIT:  
DR. HEENA GAVIT:  
SHRI UNMESH BHAIYYASAHEB PATIL:  
PROF. RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI:

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

- (a) whether the agricultural produces of the country are exported;
- (b) if so, the details of wheat, rice, spices and vegetables exported during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the total revenue earned from such exports during the said period;
- (d) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding non-payment of remunerative prices to the farmers for their produces and some traders making huge profit out of such exports;
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (f) whether any corrective measures have been taken to provide benefit to the farmers in respect of the export and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) : Details, including values of exports, of wheat, rice, spices and vegetables exported during the last three years and the current year, are as under:

Principal Components	2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23 (Apr-May)	
	QTY	Value	QTY	Value	QTY	Value	QTY	Value
FRESH VEGETABLES	1,930,511	651.68	2,339,675	723.97	2,468,404	815.26	450,711	127.93
RICE -BASMATI	4,454,771	4,372.00	4,630,209	4,018.41	3,943,717	3,537.49	685,530	698.24
RICE(OTHER THAN BASMATI)	5,056,278	2,031.25	13,149,206	4,810.80	17,288,961	6,133.63	2,679,863	963.66
SPICES	1,193,441	3,621.38	1,607,059	3,983.98	1,427,718	3,896.03	221,145	623.92
WHEAT	219,690	62.82	2,154,973	567.93	7,244,842	2,122.13	2,607,659	840.31

Source: DGCI&S

(d) to (f) : The Government has not received any specific complaint regarding traders making huge profit out of exports, without paying remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce. However, the Government has taken steps to provide direct export market linkage to farmers/ Farmer-producer organisations (FPOs). A Farmer Connect Portal has been set up for providing a platform for farmers, FPOs and cooperatives to directly interact with exporters. Capacity building programmes, BSMs, workshops etc. have also been organized to directly involve FPOs in exports.

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2804**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST, 2022**

**IMPORT OF GM MAIZE**

2804. SHRI A.K.P. CHINRAJ:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has received any representation for permission to import to Genetically Modified (GM) maize and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the Ministry is not considering to give permission to import of GM maize, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) & (b): Yes. Representations have been received for permission to import Genetically Modified (GM) corn/broken corn/maize. The representations have been submitted to Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAH&D), Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for their comments and will be processed as per existing policy.

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2822**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST, 2022**

**EXPORT FROM ASSAM**

2822. SHRI KRIPANATH MALLAH:

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

- (a) the initiatives taken by the Government for export growth within Assam so far;
- (b) the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized for this within Assam so far;
- (c) the details of the target set and achievements made so far along with the response in this regard;
- (d) whether a significant increase has been recorded after these initiatives within Assam and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has signed an MoU as a further step towards these initiatives within Assam and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

**(a) :** The major initiatives taken by the government for export growth from Assam are as below:

(1) Steps taken by Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (**APEDA**) :

- i. Organizing International Buyer-Seller Meet (BSM) in North East to boost export for the region.
- ii. Providing financial assistance through Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) to facilitate the exporters of Agri - products by providing assistance to exporters under the following components (i) Development of Export Infrastructure, (ii) Quality development and Market Development
- iii. Organizing several sensitization meeting / programs in NER in association with State Departments, State Agriculture Universities, Krishi Vikash Kendra, Farmers for identification of progressive Farmers groups and strengthening the export linkage of FPOs/FPCs.

- iv. Export oriented production clusters have been identified and notified in various districts under Agri Export policy.
- (2) Intensive Buyer-Seller Meet (BSM) for the tea importers from Russian Federation, UAE & the GCC countries were organized on virtual platforms during Sep-Oct 2020 in collaboration with the Indian Missions in Moscow and Dubai respectively, where a couple of exporters from the NER participated for promotion of “Assam Orthodox Teas” and “Assam CTC Teas”. Furthermore, Financial assistance to stakeholders for export of tea through the ICD Amingaon is provided under the Tea Development & Promotion Scheme.
- (3) The initiatives taken by **Spices board** include Implementing various schemes for post-harvest improvement and export promotion of spices, benefiting stakeholders of the Spices Sector in Assam. Under the Integrated Scheme for Export Promotion & Quality Improvement in Spices and Research & Development of Cardamom- from FY 2021-22, various programmes have been implemented by the Spices Board, in the State of Assam:
  - i. Organized Quality Improvement training programs (QITP) benefitting 500 beneficiaries of Assam to provide training on quality and safety aspects of spices in line with the applicable standards of various importing countries, so as to facilitate generation of an exportable surplus.
  - ii. Provides a platform for interaction and building direct market linkages between spice growers, exporters and importers, by organizing Buyer Seller Meet(BSM) meets across India. During FY 2022-23, an International Buyer Seller Meet(IBSM) and Spices Conclave was held at Guwahati, Assam.
- (4) Under Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES), the Central Government assistance for infrastructure creation is in the form of grant-in-aid. For the projects located in North Eastern States this grant can be upto 80% of the total equity.

**(b) to (d) :** The funds spent by Tea Board, Spices Board, APEDA and TIES is at Annexure. The overall exports from Assam during the three years is as below :-

FINANCIAL YEAR	EXPORT VALUE (IN Million USD)	% GROWTH
2019-20	436.72	
2020-21	415.62	-4.83
2021-22	450.42	8.37

**Source: DGCIS**

**(e):** APEDA has signed an MOU with Assam Agriculture University, Jorhat to conduct various training program on pre-harvest, post-harvest management and other research programs for promotion of export from the region.

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## **ANNEXURE**

### **Annexure mentioned in reply to Parts (b) to (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2822 for answer on 03-08-2022 - The funds spent by Tea Board, Spices Board, APEDA and TIES**

- (i) Funds utilized by Tea Board and Spices Board for Assam during the period 2019-20 to 2021-22 are as under :

<b>(Rs. In lakh)</b>			
<b>Sr. No</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Tea Board</b>	<b>Spices Board</b>
1.	2019-20	307.00	13.97
2.	2020-21	427.00	34.30
3.	2021-22	130.00	60.95

- (ii) Funds spent by APEDA for promotion of exports in North Eastern Region which includes Assam under the Financial Assistance Scheme are as follows :

<b>Sr. No</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount spent in NER</b>
1.	2019-20	Rs.5.40 Crore
2.	2020-21	Rs. 3.00 Crore
3.	2021-22	Rs. 5.40 Crore

- (iii) The details of funds provided for approved projects in Assam under TIES is as follows:

<b>(Amount in Cr.)</b>		
<b>No. of projects approved under TIES</b>	<b>Total TIES share for approved projects</b>	<b>Total TIES grant released, till date</b>
02	22.93	15.42

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2834 (H)**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST, 2022**

**ITPO**

2834(H). SHRI JUGAL KISHORE SHARMA:  
SHRI JYOTIRMAY SINGH MAHATO:  
MS. LOCKET CHATTERJEE:  
SHRIMATI NAVNEET RAVI RANA:  
SHRI CHANDAN SINGH:  
SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK:  
SHRIMATI GEETA KORA:  
SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT:

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

- (a) the details of the steps taken by the Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) to promote domestic business and international trade fairs;
- (b) the extent to which the management of physical infrastructure and services is being developed in business activities; and
- (c) the action plan for the units of the economic zone for development of Special Economic Zones(SEZs) for creation of economic activities, promotion of exports and services, encouragement of investment from domestic sources as well as generation of employment opportunities?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) : India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) organizes the participation of Indian companies in overseas exhibitions to explore the potential of their products in overseas markets. ITPO also organizes domestic trade fairs both Business to Business (B2B) and Business to Consumer (B2C) to provide a common platform to Indian companies all over the country for brand launch, promotion, positioning and new business tie-ups as well as retail sales. These exhibitions include the multiproduct flagship India International Trade



Fair (IITF) Delhi, AAHAR the International Food and Hospitality Fair Delhi, India International Leather Fair (IILF) Chennai, India International Footwear Fair (IIFF) New Delhi, India International Security Expo (IISE) Delhi, Delhi Book/ Stationary Fair, New Delhi and Nakshatra Fair. ITPO undertakes comprehensive publicity of International and domestic trade fairs through print, electronic and social media.

ITPO also provides bare space (halls etc) and services at Pragati Maidan to the organizers pertaining to various industries/sectors, which helps the various exhibiting companies to showcase their products/services to their potential buyers who visit these exhibitions, including foreign participants. This helps Indian companies to build their business network and secure order from buyers, both domestic and international. ITPO has held 71 fairs in 2017-18, 72 fairs in 2018-19, 69 fairs in 2019-20, 2 fairs (due to Covid restriction) in 2020-21 and 25 fairs in 2021-2022.

ITPO has also built a new exhibition complex (Halls 2-5) with state of the art 50,000 sq. metres of airconditioned exhibition space as a part of the ongoing International Exhibition-cum- Convention Centre (IECC) project. These halls were launched on October 13, 2021 and these premises are utilised by trade and industry for organising fairs and exhibiting their products.

**(b):** Government of India is implementing a scheme namely 'Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) w.e.f. FY 2017-18 with the objective to of assisting Central and State Government agencies in the creation of appropriate infrastructure for growth of exports. Under the scheme, financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid is provided to Central/State Government owned agencies for setting up or up-grading export infrastructure.

**(c):** Special Economic Zones are setup with the objectives of generation of additional economic activity, promotion of exports of goods and services, promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources, creation of employment opportunities and development of infrastructure facilities. Review of SEZ policy is an on-going process and based on the inputs / suggestions received from stakeholders on the policy and operational framework of the SEZs, Government periodically takes necessary measures for facilitating smooth and effective implementation of the SEZ Act/Rules.

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2847**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST, 2022**

**VIBRANT INDIA EXPO**

2847. SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE:  
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:  
SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA:  
SHRI RAVI KISHAN:  
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:  
SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:  
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:  
SHRI SUBRAT PATHAK:  
SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:  
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:

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

- (a) whether the 8th edition of Vibrant India, 2022 Expo was recently held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and theme and key highlights of the said fair;
- (c) the total number of companies that participated in the Vibrant India, 2022 Expo and the expected amount of business done in the said fair;
- (d) the manner in which the said fair is likely to promote the domestic economy and also promote new business ideas in the country;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to organize such Expos in other parts of the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the further steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost domestic trade in the country?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

**(a) to (b):** The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Vibrant India 2022 was organised by a private company named Vibrant India Event Solution, Ahmedabad, at the Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The theme of the fair was Houseware and Home appliances.

**(c) to (d):** The fair was organised by a private company and it has been informed by them that around 150 companies participated in the fair. The organisers had advertised the event as Business to Business fair, in which business visitors /buyers had business interactions for promotion of products mainly within the country.

**(e) to (f):** India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) organizes the participation of Indian companies in overseas exhibitions to explore the potential of their products in overseas markets. ITPO also organizes domestic trade fairs both Business to Business (B2B) and Business to Consumer (B2C) to provide common platform to Indian companies all over the country for brand launch, promotion, positioning and new business tie-ups as well as retail sales. These exhibitions include the multiproduct flagship India International Trade Fair (IITF) Delhi, AAHAR the International Food and Hospitality Fair Delhi, India International Leather Fair (IILF) Chennai, India International Footwear Fair (IIFF) New Delhi, India International Security Expo (IISE) Delhi, Delhi Book/ Stationary Fair, New Delhi and Nakshatra Fair. ITPO undertakes comprehensive publicity of International and domestic trade fairs through print, electronic and social media.

Apart from participating in international events and organising domestic events, India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) also provides bare space (halls etc) and services at Pragati Maidan to the organizers pertaining to various industries/sectors, which helps the various exhibiting companies to showcase their products/services to their potential buyers who visit these exhibitions, including foreign participants. This helps the Indian companies to build their business network and secure order from buyers both domestic and international. ITPO has held 71 fairs in 2017-18, 72 fairs in 2018-19, 69 fairs in 2019-20, 2 fairs (due to Covid restriction) in 2020-21 and 25 fairs in 2021-2022

ITPO has also built a new exhibition complex (Halls 2-5) with state of the art 50,000 sq. metres of airconditioned exhibition space as a part of the ongoing International Exhibition-cum- Convention Centre (IECC) project. These halls were launched on October 13, 2021, and these premises are utilised by trade and industry for organising fairs and exhibiting their products.

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2860**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST, 2022**

**EXPORT OF WHEAT**

2860. SHRI P.C. MOHAN:

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

- (a) whether there been an increase in the export of wheat in the past three years, including the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the exports are likely to be continued; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) & (b): The details of value of export of wheat during last three years and current year is as follows:

Year	Value ( in US\$ million)
2019-20	62.8
2020-21	567.9
2021-22	2121.5
2022-23 (1st Apr-21st July)*	1189.3

Source: DGCIS. \* Data are provisional

The data in the above table reveals that export of wheat has increased since 2019-20. The reasons for the increase include various factors like international demand-supply situation, rise in global commodity prices, higher domestic supply of wheat, conflict between major wheat exporting nations like Ukraine and Russia, etc.

(c) & (d): The Government vide notifications No: 06/2015-2022 dated 13-5-2022 have prohibited export of wheat except in cases where Letters of Credit (LCs) message exchange in SWIFT has happened on or before 13.05.2022 or on the basis of request of vulnerable and neighboring countries facing a food security situation. The continuation of wheat export is dependent on domestic supply situation and international demand-supply conditions.

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2871**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST, 2022**

**WELFARE OF TEA GARDEN WORKERS**

2871. DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has allocated 1000 crore rupees in the Union Budget 2021-22 for the welfare of tea garden workers of West Bengal and Assam;
- (b) if so, the details funds spent, works done and beneficiaries so far, State-wise;
- (c) the details of implementing agencies for the above funds in both the States;
- (d) the details of wages of tea garden labour as in different States including West Bengal; and
- (e) the other steps being taken by the Government for the welfare of tea garden workers?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**  
**(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (c): A provision of Rs. 200.00 crore was made available in Budget of Tea Board during the year 2021-22 for a scheme to be formulated for the welfare of tea workers in the States of Assam and West Bengal. The Government is in process of finalizing the details of various works to be taken up under this scheme. These works will relate to sectors such as health, education, skill development, infrastructure for provisioning of welfare services to tea workers especially women and their children. The scheme guidelines are likely to be finalized soon.

(d): The details of wages of tea garden workers in different States including West Bengal is given in Annexure.

(e): The working conditions and the welfare measures for workers working in the tea gardens in the country are governed by the Plantation Labour Act, 1951 (PLA). The Act requires the employers to provide the workers, including women, with housing, medical facilities, sickness &

maternity benefits and other forms of social security measures. There are provisions for educational facility for the children, drinking water, conservancy, canteens, crèches and recreational facilities for the benefit of the plantation workers including tea and coffee workers and their families in and around the work places in the tea and coffee plantations.

Besides PLA, number of other industrial and social security legislations such as Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, The Employee's Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 (Assam Tea Plantation Provident Fund, Pension Fund and Deposit Linked Insurance Fund Scheme Act 1955 – only for Assam), Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, Maternity Benefit Act 1961, Payment of Wages Act 1936 etc. provide various benefits like gratuity, bonus, provident fund, equal remuneration etc. to tea and coffee plantation workers. The provisions of these Acts have now been subsumed in four labour codes-the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, Social Security Code, 2020, Code on Industrial Relations, 2020 and Code on Wages 2020.

Tea Board has also implemented certain welfare activities under Human Resource Development (HRD) component of the “Tea Development and Promotion Scheme” during the Medium Term Framework(MTF) period from 2017-18 to 2019-20 and extended till 2020-21, aimed at improving the health and hygiene of workers, education of wards of workers and imparting training to improve skills for growers/workers. Financial assistance of Rs. 18.11 Cr. was extended under HRD component during MTF period.

The “Tea Development & Promotion Scheme” approved for implementation by Tea Board during the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission period from 2021-22 to 2025-26 also has a component for the welfare of small Tea growers and their workers.

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## ANNEXURE

### Details of wages of tea garden workers

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Plantation District	Effective Date/Period	Daily wages (in Rs.)
1	Assam	a) Brahmaputra valley	22.02.2021	205.00
		b) Barak valley		183.00
2	West Bengal	A) Dooars	01.01.2022	232.00
		b) Terai		
		c) Darjeeling		
3	Tripura		01.04.2018	176.00
4	Tamilnadu (Nilgiris and Nilgiris-Wayanad, Anamallais)		July 2022 to Sept 2022	406.80
5	Kerala			421.26
6	Karnataka			376.78
7	Himachal Pradesh		25.05.2022	350.00
8	Uttarakhand		July, 2020	330.00
9	Sikkim		15.09.2017	300.00
10	Bihar		Jan, 2020	175.00

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2880**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST, 2022**

**FTA WITH UAE**

2880. SHRI NITESH GANGA DEB:

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

- (a) whether India has signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with United Arab Emirates (UAE) to boost trade between the two countries;
- (b) if so, the details of products identified by both the countries under FTA;
- (c) whether any target has to be achieved by both the countries by the year 2025; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

- (a): Yes. India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on 18th February, 2022, on the side-lines of the India-UAE Virtual Summit, to boost trade between the two countries. The India-UAE CEPA entered into force on 01 May 2022.
- (b): The India-UAE CEPA is a comprehensive agreement, which covers, *inter-alia*, Trade in Goods, Rules of Origin, Trade in Services, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, Dispute Settlement, Movement of Natural Persons, Telecom, Customs Procedures, Pharmaceutical products, Government Procurement, Intellectual Property, Investment and Trade, Digital Trade and Cooperation in other Areas.

The CEPA between India and the UAE covers almost all the 8-digit Harmonized System (HS) tariff lines of India (11,908) and the UAE (7,581) respectively. India will benefit from preferential market access provided by the UAE on over 97 % of its tariff lines which account for 99% of Indian exports to the UAE in value terms.



Labour-intensive sectors such as Gems and Jewellery, Textiles, leather, footwear, sports goods, plastics, furniture, agricultural and wood products, engineering products, medical devices, and Automobiles are expected to be among the top gainers for India. Tariff concessions offered to the UAE by India, especially on raw materials and intermediate products such as crude petroleum, certain petrochemicals, and Gold, will in turn reduce the input costs for the downstream labour-intensive industries like Gems & Jewellery and Plastics, and provide a boost to domestic manufacturing of these downstream products.

**Summary of tariff Concessions Exchanged between India and the UAE**

	<b>India</b>		<b>UAE</b>	
<b>Tariff modality</b>	<b>No of lines (HS 8-digit level)</b>	<b>% of total lines</b>	<b>No of lines (HS 8-digit level)</b>	<b>% of total lines</b>
TEI	7694	64.61%	6090	80.33%
TEP (in 5/7/10 years)	2401	20.16%	1269	16.74%
TR/TRQ	656	5.51	35	0.46%
Exclusion	1157	9.72	187	2.47%
<b>Total lines</b>	<b>11908</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7581</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Description of Tariff Modalities:</b> TEI: Tariff Elimination Immediate; TEP: Tariff Elimination Phased; TR: Tariff Reduction; TRQ: Tariff Rate Quota				

Schedules of Specific Tariff Commitments of India and the UAE, respectively, on Trade in Goods under the India-UAE CEPA are available in public domain at:

<https://commerce.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Chapter-2-Annex-2A-Copy-of-India-UAE-CEPA-Final-Offer-to-UAE-Schedule-of-Tariff-Concessions-As-shared-on-20.12.21-1045AM.pdf>

<https://commerce.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Chapter-2-Annex-2B-Final-UAE-Revised-Market-Access-Offer-2118-Dec-18-2021.pdf>

As regards trade in services, while India has committed around 100 sub-sectors, the UAE has committed around 111 sub-sectors from the 11 broad service sectors such as ‘business services’, ‘communication services’, ‘construction and related engineering services’, ‘distribution services’, ‘educational services’, ‘environmental services’, ‘financial services’, ‘health related and social services’, ‘tourism and travel related services’, ‘recreational cultural and sporting services’ and ‘transport services’.

Schedules of Specific Commitments of India and the UAE, respectively, on Trade in Services are also available in public domain at:

[Chapter-8-Annex-8A.pdf \(commerce.gov.in\)](https://commerce.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Chapter-8-Annex-8A.pdf)

<https://commerce.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Chapter-8-Annex-8B.pdf>

- (c) & (d): Bilateral trade in goods is projected to increase from around USD 60 billion (in FY 2019-20) to USD 100 billion annually within five years of implementation of the India-UAE CEPA.

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2888**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST, 2022**

**ANTI-DUMPING DUTY**

2888. DR. T. SUMATHY (a) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has imposed new antidumping tax and increased import duty on pulses, foodgrains, chemicals and other items from countries like USA, European union, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the list of restricted and de-regulated items of import;
- (c) whether the DGFT has allowed the lentils, pulses and peas stored at various ports after a period of more than a year and after; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and total quantity of lentils, pulses and peas released after the decision by DGFT and the amount realised therefrom?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a)& (b): The Central Government, i.e., the Ministry of Finance, on the recommendation of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), Department of Commerce, has imposed the anti-dumping duty on the imports of chemicals/petrochemicals and other items. The list of the goods on which anti-dumping duties has been imposed in last three years is at Annexure-I. However, there is no existing anti-dumping duty on the imports of pulses and food grains. Further, the Central Government has recently increased import duty on Gold, Solar Cells, Solar Modules, Hearable Devices etc., the details of which are at Annexure-II.

The list of restricted items and prohibited items of imports is available in Schedule 1 - Import Policy - ITC(HS) 2022 and the same is uploaded on the website of DGFT (link: <https://www.dgft.gov.in/CP/?opt=itchs-import-export>).

(c): No sir.

(d): That situation did not arise.

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**Annexure mentioned in reply to Part (a) to (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2888 to be answered on 03.08.2022.**

**Annexure-I**

Sr.	Product	Sector	Country (ies) involved
1	Calcined Gypsum Powder	Other products	Iran, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and UAE
2	'1-Phenyl-3-Methyl-5-Pyrazolone	Chemicals & Petrochemicals product	China PR
3	Black toner	Photographic or Cinematographic Goods	China PR, Malaysia and Chinese Taipei
4	Flexible Slabstock Polyol of molecular weight 3000- 4000	Rubber or Plastic products	Saudi Arabia, and UAE
5	Aluminium foil 80 micron and below	Chemicals & Petrochemicals product	Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, & China PR
6	Electronic Calculators-I	Electrical & Electronics items and accessories	Malaysia
7	Natural Mica based Pearl Industrial Pigments excluding cosmetic grade	Chemicals & Petrochemicals product	China PR
8	Phthalic Anhydride	Chemicals & Petrochemicals product	China PR, Indonesia, Korea RP, Thailand
9	Sodium Citrate	Chemicals & Petrochemicals product	China PR
10	Saccharine	Chemicals & Petrochemicals product	Indonesia
11	Toluene Di-isocyanate (TDI) having isomer content in the ratio of 80:20	Chemicals & Petrochemicals product	European Union, Saudi Arabia, Chinese Taipei and UAE
12	Ciprofloxacin hydrochloride	Chemicals & Petrochemicals product	China PR
13	Untreated Fumed Silica	Chemicals & Petrochemicals product	China PR
14	Sodium Hydrosulphite	Chemicals & Petrochemicals product	China PR, and Korea RP
15	Aniline	Chemicals & Petrochemicals product	China PR
16	"N,N-Dicyclohexyl Carbodiimide (DCC)"	Chemicals & Petrochemicals product	China PR
17	Aceto Acetyl Derivatives of aromatic or hetrocyclic compounds also known as Arylides	Chemicals & Petrochemicals product	China PR
18	Silicon Sealants	Chemicals & Petrochemicals product	China PR
19	Chlorinated Polyvinyl Chloride Resin (CPVC) - whether or not	Chemicals & Petrochemicals product	China PR, and Korea RP

	further processed into compound		
20	Flouroelastomers (FKM)	Rubber or Plastic products	China PR
21	Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) resin	Rubber or Plastic products	China PR
22	Fluoro Backsheet excluding transparent backsheet	Rubber or Plastic products	China PR
23	PolyurethaneLeather whichincludes anykind of textilecoated onesided or bothsided withPolyurethane	Textiles and articles	China PR
24	Clear Float Glass	Glass and Glassware	Malaysia
25	Faced Glasswool in Rolls	Glass and Glassware	China PR
26	Certain Flat Rolled Products of Aluminium	Steel or Other Metal Products	China PR
27	Digital Offset Printing Plates	Machinery items	China PR, Japan, Korea RP, Chinese Taipei, Vietnam
28	Measuring Tapes-I	Other products	Singapore, Cambodia
29	Decor Paper	Other products	China PR
30	HFC Blends	Chemicals & Petrochemcials product	China PR
31	HFC Components	Chemicals & Petrochemcials product	China PR

**Annexure mentioned in reply to Part (a) to (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2888 to be answered on 03.08.2022.**

**Annexure-II**

<b>Sr.</b>	<b>Product</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Rate From</b>	<b>Rate To</b>
1	Gold	Precious Metals	7.50%	12.50%
2	Solar Cells	Renewable Energy	0%	25%
3	Solar Modules	Renewable Energy	0%	40%
4	Specified Machineries	Capital Goods	0%/2.5%/5%	7.50%
5	Hearable Devices	Electronics	15%	20%
6	Smart Meters	Electrical Equipment	15%	25%

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2893**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST, 2022**

**TEA PRODUCTION IN ASSAM**

2893. SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL:

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

- (a) the average annual production of tea in Assam during the last five years;
- (b) the quantum of Assam Tea exported to foreign countries during the last five years;
- (c) the details of revenue earned by the Government of India through Assam Tea during the said period;
- (d) whether despite being in high demand at international level, a large area of Assam tea production is being cleared in the name of setting up industries; and
- (e) if so, the reasons and justification for the said action?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) : The annual production of tea in Assam during last five years is given in the table below:

Year	Assam Production (M. Kg)
2017-18	676.31
2018-19	701.35
2019-20	695.38
2020-21	626.23
2021-22	672.14

*Source: Tea Board. Kolkata*

(b) & (c) : Tea Board collects exports data from exporters as per the Tea (Distribution & Export) Control Order. Tea exports data based on port of shipment is captured and figures for tea exports from the ICD, Amingaon in Assam and all India figures of exports of tea during last 05 years is provided below:-

Year	Exports from ICD, Amingaon		All India Exports	
	Qty (in M.Kgs)	Value (in Rs. Cr)	Qty (in M.Kgs)	Value (in Rs. Cr)
2017-18	22.03	459.91	256.57	5064.88
2018-19	17.24	394.69	254.50	5506.84
2019-20	10.46	251.41	241.34	5457.10
2020-21	8.71	266.67	203.79	5311.53
2021-22	8.30	265.44	200.79	5415.78

*Source: Tea Board, Kolkata*

The total tea exports in value terms range in -between Rs. 5311.53 Crore to Rs. 5506.84 Crore during last five years. However, the quantum of tea exported and the revenues earned from sale in export markets by single origin tea like Assam is not possible to quantify because this variety is blended by the exporters with other single origin teas for catering to the different buyers across the tea importing countries as per their requirements.

(d) & (e): As per information received from Government of Assam, no reports of cleaning tea garden areas having tea bushes have been received.

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2915**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST, 2022**

**TRADE AGREEMENT WITH AUSTRALIA**

2915. SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU:

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

- (a) the details of the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement recently signed between India and Australia along with the intended impact of the same;
- (b) whether the same is likely to hamper local producers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of measures the Government is taking to protect the interests of domestic producers?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

- (a): India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA) was signed on 2nd April, 2022. Details of Ind-Aus ECTA is available in the public domain and can be accessed in the website of the Department of Commerce at the weblink: <https://commerce.gov.in/international-trade/trade-agreements/ind-aus-ecta>.
- (b) to (d): Ind-Aus ECTA is likely to increase bilateral trade leading to growth and employment. Ind-Aus ECTA was signed after holding intensive consultations with various stakeholders and interest groups. To safeguard the interest of the domestic industry, a number of sensitive items have not been included in our schedules; having strict Rules of Origin; bilateral safeguard measures for fourteen years and a compulsory review after fifteen years.

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2946**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST, 2022**

**GEMS AND JEWELLERY EXPORT HUB**

2946. SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is planning on creating gems and jewellery export hubs for the artisans and traders of States of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to create gems and jewellery export hub in Amritsar considering its good connectivity to better serve the artisans and traders of States of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) : There is presently no proposal for creating gems and jewellery export hubs for the artisans and traders of States of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.

(b) to (d) : Does not arise.

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2967**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST, 2022**

**RUBBER BOARD**

2967. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently reconstituted the Rubber Board;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the names of the Members of Rubber Board;
- (c) whether the Rubber Board has been reconstituted as per the guidelines of Rubber Act 1947;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereto;
- (e) whether the Government intends to bring amendments to the Rubber Act 1947;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (g) whether the Government has sought recommendations/suggestions from all stake holders in this regard and if, so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**  
**(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

**(a) to (d):** In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (3) of section 4 of the Rubber Act, 1947 (24 of 1947) read with rules 3 and 4 of the Rubber Rules, 1955, the Government has reconstituted the Rubber Board vide extraordinary Gazette notification No. S.O. 2980 (E) dated 28.06.2022. The details regarding members of the Rubber Board is attached as Annexure.

**(e) to (g):** There have been widespread changes in the overall market scenario with reference to the development of Rubber and allied sector in the country. Therefore, to remove certain archaic provisions to create a conducive environment for ease of doing business and for making a world class Rubber Industry, the Government considers it expedient to repeal the existing Rubber Act 1947 and enact a new legislation. In this regard, a draft Bill 'Rubber (Promotion and Development) Bill 2022' was hosted in the official website of this Department and Rubber Board for wider consultation and seeking comments/ suggestions from public/ stakeholders. 522 stakeholders and public have submitted their objections/suggestions on the draft 'Rubber (Promotion and Development) Bill 2022'. Last date to receive the objections/suggestions was 9th April 2022. Recommendations/suggestions have been received regarding definitions, objectives, constitution of the Board, functions, provision relating to minimum and maximum price for rubber, declaration of Minimum Support Price, provisions for declaring status of rubber as agriculture produce, request not to repeal the Rubber Act 1947, etc.

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## **ANNEXURE**

Following persons are members of the Rubber Board:-

1. Dr. Sawar Dhanania – Chairman
2. Dr. Sandeep Saxena, I.A.S. - Member; Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
3. Shri Anil Kumar G - Member;
4. Dr. Rathan U Kelkar, IAS - Member; Secretary, Agricultural Development & Farmers Welfare Department, Govt. of Kerala,
5. Dr. K. Ellangovan, IAS - Member; Principal Secretary, Department of Industries, Government Secretariat, Govt. of Kerala,
6. Shri. N. Hari - Member;
7. Shri Prasenjit Biswas IFS (Rtd.), Tripura - Member;
8. Director or Deputy Secretary (Plantation), Department of Commerce - Member
9. Under Secretary (Plantation), Department of Commerce - Member
10. Horticulture Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India - Member
11. Shri. N.K. Premachandran – Member, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha
12. Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel, - Member, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha
13. Shri Vinay Dinu Tendulkar, - Member, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha
14. Executive Director, Rubber Board - Member Ex-officio
15. Rubber Production Commissioner, Rubber Board - Member Ex-officio.

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