

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *65
ANSWERED ON 07/02/2024

TASK FORCE TO RESOLVE TRADE BARRIERS

*65. SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE:
SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:

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

- (a) whether it is true that India's exports suffer from barriers such as time taking prior registration requirements and unreasonable domestic standards/rules in many countries and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has set up a task force to identify and resolve trade barriers being faced by exporters in other countries;
- (c) if so, the manner in which this move will help in providing greater market access to domestic goods in other countries;
- (d) whether the Government is also considering to improve mutual recognition agreements with different countries to improve the product standards as per the requirements of the importing countries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and work done in this regard?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

- (a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.65 FOR ANSWER ON 07.02.2024 REGARDING “TASK FORCE TO RESOLVE TRADE BARRIERS”

(a) As per their legal and trade policies, countries enforce various regulatory measures to ensure the safety and quality of the products placed in their territory. The range and stringency of the requirements, including prior registration, testing and certification may differ from one country to another, depending on their developmental status as well as how evolved their regulatory structures are. These measures apply equally to both domestic manufacturers and the importers. However, such measures may sometimes act as trade barriers due to various reasons such as gap in the regulatory frameworks and quality compliance requirements of the trade partners, lack of transparency, arbitrariness or differing interpretation of the rules, improper implementation etc.

(b) to (e) Taking cognizance of the challenges involved in mapping the trade barriers, and to give increased focus, a task force has been setup under Department of Commerce, to identify, categorise and develop tailored strategies for resolution of these identified non-tariff barriers.

Further, the Export Promotion councils, dedicated commodity and territorial divisions within the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, also constantly monitor and keep track of the emerging trade barriers and work with stakeholders, through bilateral or plurilateral institutional mechanisms to resolve measures that unnecessarily restrict trade. In India's Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with Trade Partners, non-tariff barriers are regularly discussed under available institutional frameworks. Also, in some FTAs, specific provisions are available for regulatory cooperation and expediting regulatory approvals including through Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs). For example India-UAE CEPA and India-Australia ECTA have provision under which expedited regulatory approvals will be granted to Indian pharmaceuticals products meeting certain stringent standards. Similarly, in India-Singapore CECA, there are MRAs including recognition arrangements on telecom products, pharmaceutical products, and on products under the mandate of EIC. Additionally, standalone Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) are also entered into between the regulatory authorities of India with that of partner countries to promote regulatory convergence.

The resolution of trade barriers including ensuring increased and effective market access is a continuous process and endeavour. India also engages in regulatory cooperation to help ensure that global rules governing the regulatory structures are favourable and consistent.
