

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 62
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th JUNE, 2019

WITHDRAWAL OF GSP BY USA

*62. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ:

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

- (a) whether the United States of America has removed India from the select trade list as a beneficiary of their Generalized System of Preference (GSP) and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (b) the details of the products and their value (product-wise) which are likely to be affected due to the said withdrawal;
- (c) the manner and extent to which the said decision is likely to hit the country's exporters;
- (d) whether the Government is holding talks at the highest level to resume the said system and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the estimated revenue loss and its likely impact on the overall economy of the country along with other measures being taken by the Government to recover the lost ground?

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) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 62 FOR ANSWER ON 26th JUNE, 2019
REGARDING "WITHDRAWAL OF GSP BY USA".**

- (a) Yes, sir. India exported goods valued at \$ 6.3 billion (as per USTR figures) to U.S. under the GSP programme during the calendar year 2018, which was 12.1% of India's total export to U.S. in the year.
- (b) The details of the products and their value (product wise) which were getting GSP benefit are available in the USITC website.
- (c) The impact will vary across products, depending on the individual product level concessions constituting the average duty concession of 3.8% on India's exports to US in 2018 availing GSP benefits, and other factors specific to each product.
- (d) Trade related issues are a part of any ongoing economic relationship, and will continue to be discussed and addressed as a part of the regular bilateral trade engagement between India and the US.
- (e) The total duty concessions accruing on account of GSP were \$ 240 million in 2018, which was about 3.8% of India's export to the US availing the US GSP benefits. Indian industry is competitive in their export products and we do not foresee significant impact on our foreign trade.

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 64
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th JUNE, 2019

TRANSPORT SUBSIDY TO AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

*64. SHRI Y.S. AVINASH REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to increase the agricultural exports by providing transport subsidies to the exporters/States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the other subsidies being given by the Government to export agencies to encourage exports?

ANWSER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 64 FOR ANSWER ON 26th JUNE, 2019
REGARDING "TRANSPORT SUBSIDY TO AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS".

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has brought out a new Central Sector Scheme – ‘Transport and Marketing Assistance for Specified Agriculture Products’ - for providing assistance for the international component of freight, to mitigate the freight disadvantage for the export of agriculture products, and marketing of agricultural products. The assistance under the Scheme is likely to result in higher exports of branded agriculture products in overseas markets, through enhanced competitiveness. The Scheme was notified on 27th February 2019.

The assistance under the Scheme is available to exporters of specified agricultural products. The Scheme covers all the agricultural products, falling under Chapters 1 to 24 of ITC (HS) Code List, with the exceptions as listed at **Annexure-I**.

For export of products by sea, the assistance is based on the freight paid for full Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit (TEU) containers. Assistance for products exported by air is based on per tonne freight charges on net weight of the export cargo, calculated on the full ton basis, ignoring any fraction thereof.

The Tea Board also has a ‘Scheme for assisting tea exporters towards meeting additional transport & handling charges being incurred for teas exported through ICD Amingaon’. The Scheme is for compensating exporters who are shipping teas from the I.C.D. Amingaon, Assam, taking into account the fact that the additional charges being levied by the shipping companies towards transportation and terminal handling charges, arising out of the empty haulage of the containers during the return journey from the port of shipment to Amingaon, affects export competitiveness. Financial assistance by way of incentive towards export of tea through ICD, Amingaon is at Rs.2.00 per kg of tea.

The Coffee Board, under its Integrated Coffee Development Project, also provides transit/freight assistance for the following:

- i) Rs. 2/- perkg.forthexportofHighValueGreen Coffeestofaroff high-value markets viz., USA, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea,Finland and Norway.
- ii) Rs.3/- perKg.forexportof Value AddedCoffeesinretailconsumerpacks exported as “India Brand”.

(c) Promoting exports of agricultural products from the country is a continuous process. Various measures to increase agricultural exports, both strategic and operational, have been included in the newly introduced Agriculture Export Policy. 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.

Annexure-I

Chapter	HS Codes	Description
Chapters 1, 2 & 5	All HS Codes	- Live animals - Meat and Edible Meat Offal - Products of Animal Origin, not elsewhere specified or included
Chapter 3	030617	- Other shrimps and prawns :
Chapter 4	0401	-Milk and cream, not concentrated nor containing added sugar or other sweetening matter
	0402	- Milk and cream, concentrated or containing added sugar or other sweetening matter
	0403	- Buttermilk, curdled milk and cream, yogurt, kephir and other fermented or acidified milk and cream, whether or not concentrated or containing added sugar or other sweetening matter or flavoured or containing added fruit, nuts or cocoa
	0404	- Whey, whether or not concentrated or containing added sugar or other sweetening matter; products consisting of natural milk constituents, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter, not elsewhere specified or included
	0405	- Butter and other fats and oils derived from milk; dairy spreads
	0406	- Cheese and curd
Chapter 7	0703	- Onions, shallots, garlic, leeks and other alliaceous vegetables, fresh or chilled
Chapter 10	1001, 1006	-Wheat And Meslin -Rice
Chapters 13 & 14	All HS Codes	- Lac; Gums, Resins and other Vegetable Saps and Extracts - Vegetable Plaiting Materials; Vegetable Products not elsewhere specified or included
Chapter 17	1701, 1703	-Cane Or Beet Sugar And Chemically Pure Sucrose, In Solid Form - Raw Sugar Not Containing Added Flavouring Or Colouring Matter ; -Molasses resulting from the extraction or refining of sugar
Chapters 22 and 24	All HS Codes	- Beverages, Spirits and Vinegar - Tobacco and Manufactured Tobacco Substitutes

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 75
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th JUNE, 2019

POTENTIAL OF RUBBER INDUSTRY

*75. SHRI H. VASANTHAKUMAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take measures to meet the challenges posed by free import of rubber products, high interest costs leading to slow shift in high-technology equipment, low rate of value addition, etc.; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these issues are likely to be resolved?

ANWSER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

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. 75 FOR ANSWER ON 26th JUNE, 2019
REGARDING "POTENTIAL OF RUBBER INDUSTRY".

(a) & (b): Import of goods is done by importers as per the applicable import policy related to the goods. Import of goods can be free, restricted or prohibited. Import of rubber products except retreaded/used tyres (HS 4012) is free without any restriction. "Free" import means the item can be imported without any restriction but with payment of applied import duty while complying with other domestic laws, rules and regulations. The value of import of rubber products increased from Rs 5,074 Crore in 2010-11 to Rs 9,378 Crore in 2017-18. The value of export of rubber products increased from Rs 8,447 Crore in 2010-11 to Rs 20,916 Crore in 2017-18. The trade surplus in rubber products increased from Rs 3,373 Crore in 2010-11 to Rs 11,538 Crore in 2017-18. The Indian Rubber Manufacturers Research Association (IRMRA) and the Rubber Board undertake product development research and provide training, technical consultancy and testing services for the rubber products industry. The National Rubber Policy has already been issued, inter alia, to promote the development of rubber product manufacturing and exports. Further, with regard to import of rubber products following measures have been undertaken:

- (i) the import of rubber tyres was examined in budget exercise 2018-19 and accordingly the basic customs duty (BCD) rate was increased from 10% to 15% on Truck and Bus radial tyres falling under tariff item 40112010.
- (ii) BCD rate was increased from 10% to 15% on motor cars radial tyres falling under tariff item 40111010 with effect from 27th September, 2018.
- (iii) Anti-dumping duty has been levied on acrylonitrile butadiene rubber, styrene butadiene rubber (SBR) and new/unused pneumatic radial tyres originating in or imported from certain countries.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 656
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th JUNE, 2019

TRADE DEFICIT BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA

656. SHRI SRIRANGA APPA BARNE:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:
- (a) whether China is adopting a host of discriminatory and restrictive practices against Indian companies to bar them from participating in their procurement process;
 - (b) if so, the response of the Government thereon and the action taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of Indian Companies;
 - (c) whether there is a need to pursue for greater market access for agriculture and dairy products, and pharmaceuticals;
 - (d) if so, the response of the Government thereon;
 - (e) whether the Government has taken any measures to boost exports and reduce imports to check the massive trade deficit with China and if so, the details thereof; and
 - (f) whether there is a need to give export incentives to bridge the gap between import and export and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

- (a)& (b): A section of the industry has opined that some of the conditions like requirements of local experience, are limiting their participation in the Chinese procurement process. Government of India has been engaging with the relevant Chinese government entities to ensure that Indian companies get market access for its products. Such issues are also discussed in the bilateral meetings from time to time to find solutions to any such restrictions in market access.
- (c) Yes sir.
- (d) to (f): 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 two countries agreed to increase bilateral trade in a more balanced and sustainable manner. In this regard various meetings have been held at the official level with Chinese counterparts as a part of our ongoing efforts, to obtain market access for various Indian agricultural, dairy, and pharmaceutical products etc. in light of the potential of these products in the Chinese market. Various protocols have been signed to facilitate export of Indian rice, rapeseed meal, tobacco and fishmeal / fish oil, chilli meal, from India to China. A workshop was jointly conducted by National Medical Products Administration China, and Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation India, with the objective to train Indian Pharma exporters on the updated regulatory practices of China, on 21st June 2019, at Shanghai, China.

The Government of India has also taken various measures to extend support to exporters by facilitating Buyers Seller meets between potential Chinese importers and Indian exporters to increase exports of sugar, oil meals, Indian rice, grapes etc. In addition, Indian exporters are encouraged to participate in major trade fairs in China, to showcase Indian products.

Government has been implementing various schemes/programmes to help the domestic industries compete effectively with imports. 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., provide support for promoting domestic manufacturing in the country.

The Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 has mechanisms such as Merchandise Exports from India Scheme, Advance Authorisation Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Interest Equalization Scheme to provide an enabling framework for the businesses to make their exports competitive. Active interventions, in terms of policy and procedural changes are regularly undertaken by the Government so that the businesses can cope up with the dynamic international trade scenario.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 663
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th JUNE, 2019

NEW NATIONAL RUBBER POLICY

663. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

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

- (a) whether the Government is formulating a new National Rubber Policy in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the salient features of the policy;
- (c) whether the Government has taken into consideration the opinion of all stakeholders in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the new policy will help the natural rubber growers in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government for the welfare of natural rubber growers?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a)& (b):The Department of Commerce already brought out the National Rubber Policy in March 2019. The National Rubber Policy includes several provisions to support the natural rubber (NR) production sector and the entire rubber industry value chain. The Policy covers new planting and replanting of rubber, support for growers, processing and marketing of natural rubber, labour shortage, grower forums, external trade, Centre-State integrated strategies, research, training, rubber product manufacturing and export, climate change concerns, carbon market etc.

(c) to (e):National Rubber Policy is based on the short term and long term strategies identified by the Task Force constituted on the rubber sector for mitigating problems faced by rubber growers in the country. The Task Force held extensive consultations with various stakeholders of rubber sector. Prior to the notification of the National Rubber Policy, stakeholder views were obtained. The policy is expected to benefit natural rubber growers and promote the natural rubber production sector.

(f): Developmental and research activities for supporting NR sector for the welfare of growers are carried out through Rubber Board by implementing the scheme “Sustainable and Inclusive Development of Natural Rubber Sector” in the Medium Term Framework(MTF)(2017-18 to 2019-20). The Developmental activities include financial and technical assistance for planting, supply of quality planting materials, support for grower forums, training and skill development programme.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 684
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th JUNE, 2019

NEW COFFEE AND PEPPER POLICY

684. SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is planning a new coffee and pepper policy which will ensure remunerative prices for genuine coffee and pepper growers;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has prepared any draft of the proposal and has invited comments from the States concerned;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the coffee and pepper prices were fixed to the satisfaction of the farmers in the said policy; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (c): While reform and promotion of the coffee and pepper sector is an ongoing and constant endeavour of the government, at this time there is no proposal related to a new policy.

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

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 685 (H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th JUNE, 2019

EXPORT OF MILK AND AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS

685(H). SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ:

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

- (a) whether India has maintained its top spot in milk production in the world and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether a proposal has been sent to the United States of America to open its market for milk and agriculture imports from India; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANWSER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) : Yes Sir. India was the largest milk producer in the world in 2015-2017, as per FAO Report (Food Outlook, May 2019).

(b) & (c) : Yes Sir. Market access request for agricultural products viz. Table grapes, Pineapple, Papaya, Potato, Turnip, Radish and Sweet Orange from India for export to USA has been sent. India currently exports milk products viz. Butter, Ghee, Cheese to USA.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 730 (H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th JUNE, 2019

INDIA'S GLOBAL TRADE

730(H). SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to increase India's share in global business;
- (b) the details of difficulties being faced by the Government on trade front in foreign countries;
- (c) whether the Government is likely to prepare an action plan to overcome those difficulties; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

- (a) India's share in global trade (merchandise and services) was 2.1% (481.74 USD Bn out of total 23,044 USD Bn) for exports and 2.6% (600.62 USD Bn out of total 23,112 USD Bn) for imports in 2017. Exports have been growing on a regular basis since 2016-17 for almost three years and total exports reached a new peak of more than half a trillion dollars, for the first time in 2018-19. Government has taken following key measures for promotion of exports:
 - i. A new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 was launched on 1st April 2015. The policy, inter alia, rationalised the earlier export promotion schemes and introduced two new schemes, namely Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) for improving export of goods and 'Services Exports from India Scheme (SEIS)' for increasing exports of services. Duty credit scrips issued under these schemes were made fully transferable.
 - ii. The Mid-term Review of the FTP 2015-20 was undertaken on 5th December, 2017. Incentive rates for labour intensive / MSME sectors were increased by 2% with a financial implication of Rs 8,450 cr per year.
 - iii. A new Logistics Division was created in the Department of Commerce to co-ordinate integrated development of the logistics sector. India's rank in World Bank's Logistics Performance Index moved up from 54 in 2014 to 44 in 2018.

- iv. Interest Equalization Scheme on pre and post shipment rupee export credit was introduced from 1.4.2015 providing interest equalisation at 3% for labour intensive / MSME sectors. The rate was increased to 5% for MSME sectors with effect from 2.11.2018 and merchant exporters were covered under the scheme with effect from 2.1.2019.
- v. Various measures for improving ease of doing business were taken. India's rank in World Bank 'Ease of doing business' ranking improved from 142 in 2014 to 77 in 2018 with the rank in 'trading across borders' moving up from 122 to 80.
- vi. A new scheme called "Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES)" was launched with effect from 1st April 2017 to address the export infrastructure gaps in the country.
- vii. A comprehensive "Agriculture Export Policy" was launched on 6th December, 2018 with an aim to double farmers' income by 2022 and provide an impetus to agricultural exports.
- viii. A new scheme called "Transport and Marketing Assistance" (TMA) scheme has been launched for mitigating disadvantage of higher cost of transportation for export of specified agriculture products.
- ix. A new scheme called Scheme for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) covering export of garments and made-ups was notified on 7.3.2019 providing refund of duties/taxes at higher rates.

(b) Key difficulties faced by the exporters are as follows:

- i Technical and non-technical barriers to trade such as Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) standards imposed on agricultural items and quality standards on manufactured goods.
- ii Tariff advantages to the exporters of competing countries in key export markets due to trade agreements between their countries and destination countries/regions.
- iii Higher logistics and financing costs for Indian exporters.

(c) & (d) Government has formulated a detailed action plan which is updated regularly based on the feedback from the exporting community, the Export Promotion Councils and other industry associations. State Governments have also been requested to develop an Export Strategy for the State keeping in view the State Specific opportunities and challenges. The Board of Trade and the Council for Trade Development and Promotion provide a platform for all the stakeholders, including State governments to discuss the issues impacting exports.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 734
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th JUNE, 2019

BILATERAL TRADE BETWEEN INDIA AND US

734. SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:
SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:
DR. HEENA GAVIT:
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:
DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

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

- (a) the details of bilateral trade meetings held between India and the United States (US) recently;
- (b) the details of agenda fixed and the issues discussed during the said meetings and its outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the bilateral trade in Goods and Services registered a growth of 12.6% with US and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the US has announced recently its decision to end preferential tariffs to \$5.6 billion of Indian exports;
- (e) if so, whether this will affect Indian exports drastically; and
- (f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto along with the steps taken by the Government to resolve outstanding trade issues and promote economic development and prosperity between the two countries?

ANWSER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

- (a) The commerce and Industry Minister of India and the US Commerce Secretary recently held a bilateral meeting on 06th May, 2019.
- (b) The issues covered various areas of mutual concern including a general consensus on taking the trade relationship to a higher level.

- (c) No, the bilateral trade in goods and services registered a growth of 14.5% in the year 2018 with US. The bilateral trade in goods registered a growth of 22.4% (DGCIS figure) and bilateral trade in services registered 9.3% (US Census Bureau) in 2018.
- (d) Yes, sir.
- (e) India exported goods worth of \$ 6.3 billion (as per USTR figures) to U.S. under the GSP programme during the calendar year 2018, which contributed 12.1% of India's total export to U.S. in the year. The impact will vary across products, depending on the individual product level concessions constituting the average duty concession of 3.8% on India's exports to US in 2018 availing GSP benefits, and other factors specific to each product.
- (f) Trade related issues are a part of any ongoing economic relationship, and will continue to be discussed and addressed as a part of the regular bilateral trade engagement between India the US.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 740
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th JUNE, 2019

BAN ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

740. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:

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

- (a) the criterion followed/adopted by the Government for imposing/lifting ban on various agricultural products from time to time;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any study to ascertain the adverse impact on farmers/consumers of such imposing/lifting ban on agricultural products during each of the last three years and the current year and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to formulate a long term consistent and predictable export-import policy of agricultural products and if so, the salient features of such policy; and
- (d) the corrective steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of farmers/consumers from the adverse impact of imposing/lifting ban on agricultural products?

ANWSER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b) The export and import policies for agricultural products, which include the decisions on lifting/imposing bans on export/import of individual agricultural products, are framed keeping several factors in mind, such as availability of surplus over the domestic requirements (including the requirement of buffer stock and strategic reserve, if any), concerns of food security, diplomatic/humanitarian considerations, international demand and supply situation, price competitiveness, need to balance between remunerative prices to the growers and availability of agricultural products to common man at affordable prices etc. During the last three years, no bans have been imposed on export/import of any of the major agricultural products. As such, no study has been conducted in this regard.

(c) & (d) The Agriculture Export Policy, brought out by the Government in December 2018, aims at a stable trade policy for agricultural products, involving following steps:

1) Providing assurance that the processed agricultural products and all kinds of organic products will not be brought under the ambit of any kind of export restriction (viz. Minimum Export Price, Export duty, Export bans, Export quota, Export capping, Export permit etc.) even though the primary agricultural product or non-organic agricultural product is brought under some kind of export restrictions.

2) Identification of a few commodities which are essential for food security in consultation with the relevant stakeholders and Ministries. Any export restriction on such identified commodities under extreme price situation will be based on decision of a high level committee. Also, any kind of export prohibitions and restrictions on the identified commodities above would be taken up in a WTO compatible manner.

3). Liberalised import of agricultural products for value addition and re-export.

Consequent to the approval of policy, mandate of the Committee of Secretaries on 'Essential commodities' has been expanded to provide recommendation on export restrictions on a few commodities, which are essential for food security, under extreme price situation only.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 741
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th JUNE, 2019

TRADE AMONG BRICS

741. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that 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 especially after trade war between the USA and China; and
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (b): No sir, 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 2018-19 is at Annex-I.

(c) to (e): Yes Sir, through the established Institutional mechanisms such as Joint Commission Meetings (JCMs) and Joint Trade Committee (JTCs), the Government has taken 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.

India's trade with BRICS countries in 2018-19 (in US\$ million)

Country	Export	Import	Total Trade	Trade Balance
China	16,749.59	70,319.55	87,069.14	-53,569.96
Russia	2,389.49	5,840.44	8,229.93	-3,450.95
South Africa	4,067.20	6,517.33	10,584.53	-2,450.13
Brazil	3,800.49	4,406.43	8,206.92	-605.94
BRICS Total	27,006.77	87,083.75	114,090.52	-60,076.98

Source: DGC&S.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 750
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th JUNE, 2019

EPZs AND EOUs IN DELHI

750. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH:

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

- (a) the list of all Special Economic Zones in Delhi;
- (b) whether Delhi has Export Processing Zones (EPZs) and 100% Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and if so, the details and the numbers thereof;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken/ being taken by the Government to provide special concessions and incentives to industries for bringing investment in Delhi during the last five years; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANWSER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

- (a): Sir, at present there is no Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Delhi.
- (b): The Export Processing Zones (EPZs) are now known as Special Economic Zones (SEZs). At present there is no Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Delhi. However, there are 8 Export Oriented Units (EOUs) in Delhi. Details of 100% EOUs in Delhi is at **Annexure**.
- (c) and (d): The fiscal concessions and tax/duty benefits allowed to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are in-built into the SEZs Act, 2005 and Rules thereunder and in respect of Export Oriented Units (EOUs) such concessions and tax/duty benefits are available in Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-2020, as amended from time to time, which are uniformly applicable to all States/Union Territories.

Annexure to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 750 for 26th June, 2019**Details of existing 100% EOUs in Delhi**

Sl. No.	Name of EOU	Factory Address	Item of Manufacture
1.	Albion Consulting Pvt. Ltd.	F-90/12, Okhla Industrial Area Phase-I	Handmade Gold Diamond & Silver jewellery
2.	Artifacts India	B-51, Mayapuri Industrial Area Phase-I New Delhi	Stocking madeups, Tree skirts makeups, photoframe etc.
3.	P. C. L. Exports	B-I/E-16 Mohan Coprative Indus. Estate Mathura Road Badapur, New Delhi-110044	Data Processing, M.T., Customise Software
4.	P. P. Jewelers (Exports)	2681-83A, 2nd and 3rd Floor, Gali No. 1, Gurudawara Road, BeadonPura Road, New Delhi - 110005.	Gold & Silver Jewellery
5.	Seema Overseas	B-II/46, Mohan Co-operative Industrial Area Mathura Road, New Delhi	Builders Hardware
6.	SS Gas Lab Asia Pvt. Ltd.	A-6/3, Jhilmil Industrial Area, Shahdara, Delhi	Gas Plants and parts thereof
7.	Welspring Universal	B-19, Mayapuri Industrial Area Phase - I, New delhi-110064	Hand tools, Welding Machine Tools/ Accessories and Safety Products, Builders Hardware, Clothes Drier
8.	Wipro Ltd.	Omaxe Square, Commercial Plot No. 14 Ground Floor & 3rd to 5th Floor, Office Block, New Delhi	IT Enables Services

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 753
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th JUNE, 2019

EXPORT OF AQUACULTURE

753. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

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

- (a) the details of States that are exporting aquaculture to other countries including the US during the last five years and the current year, State and quantity-wise and the revenue earned through this, year and State-wise;
- (b) whether the US has recently imposed anti-dumping duty on Indian shrimp exports; and
- (c) if so, the extent to which the above duty has affected shrimp exports to US, with particular reference to Andhra Pradesh?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

- (a) The details of state and quantity wise export of marine products and the revenue earned through exports during the last five years are annexed at **Annexure-I**.
- (b) No sir. US has not recently imposed anti dumping duty on Indian shrimp exports. However, US had imposed anti dumping duty on import of frozen warm water shrimps from certain countries including India in 2004, based on the representations of Southern Shrimp Producers Alliance, an association of local shrimp producers in USA.
- (c) The Initial anti dumping duty imposed by US was 10.17% which was reviewed subsequently. Every year there is an administrative review on the duty to be collected, and so far 12 administrative reviews have been conducted. The final result of the 12th administrative review for the period of import from 01.02.2016 to 31.01.2017 has pegged the anti dumping duty at 1.35 %, which is currently applied to the exporters from India including those from Andhra Pradesh. On 23rd April 2019, the Department of Commerce published the preliminary results of the 13th administrative review of the anti dumping duty order on certain frozen warm water shrimp from India. Based on these preliminary results for anti dumping duty rate for Indian companies were at 1.87% and the final result of this review is awaited.

Even with the imposition of anti- dumping duty the shrimp exports to US have shown a growing trend over the years.

STATE WISE AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS EXPORT FOR THE LAST 5 YEARS AND 2018-19

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 770
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th JUNE, 2019

IMPORT OF ARECANUT

770. SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:

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

- (a) whether arecanut is being imported from other countries including Nepal, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Indonesia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise and year-wise for the last two years;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of the problems of arecanut growers in the country due to fall in the prices and production of arecanut in domestic market; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to solve the problems of arecanut growers and to ensure adequate prices for their produce?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

- (a) & (b): Import of Arecanut has taken place mainly from Sri Lanka and Indonesia during the last two years and current year. Country wise and year wise import data of areca nut for the last two years is annexed.
- (c) & (d) To protect the farmers, Government raised the Minimum Import Price from Rs.162/- to Rs.251/-per kg in the month of January, 2017. Representations were received regarding large scale import of areca nut despite imposition of MIP, thus hurting the domestic farmers/growers. To address the issue, Government further amended the import policy of areca nut in July, 2018 by prohibiting its imports below the MIP of Rs.251/- per KG. The government has also taken, inter alia, the following steps to alleviate the problems of domestic areca nut growers:
 - (i) The import duty of Arecanut has been fixed at 100%.
 - (ii) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has advised its field offices to stringently adhere to the quality standards of arecanut before clearing the import consignments. Moreover, the Bureau of Indian Standards has been asked to formulate standards for Arecanut. This has been done with a view to prevent inferior quality Arecanut from entering Indian market and destabilizing the domestic prices.

- (iii) For import from our FTA partners, Customs authorities have been advised to check the Rules of Origin with utmost care so as to ensure that Arecanut grown in countries other than SAARC is not imported through our neighbouring countries taking advantage of low import duty under SAFTA.

Annex

India's Imports of Arecanuts, item-wise & country-wise, for the last two financial years (2017-18 to 2018-19) and the current financial year 2019-20 (upto April, 2019)

ITCHS	Item Description	Country	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20 (upto April, 2019)	
			Quantity (TON)	Value (Mill. US \$)	Quantity (TON)	Value (Mill. US \$)	Quantity (TON)	Value (Mill. US \$)
08028010	WHOLE ARECA NUTS	INDONESIA			656.50	1.85	50.00	0.20
		MADAGASCAR						
		MYANMAR						
		PAKISTAN IR						
		SRI LANKA DSR	276.15	1.09	264.00	1.02		
		VIETNAM SOC REP						
	WHOLE ARECA NUTS Total		276.15	1.09	920.50	2.88	50.00	0.20
08028020	SPLIT ARECA NUTS	BANGLADESH PR						
		INDONESIA	36.00	0.03	3383.00	5.28	216.00	0.31
		MALAYSIA						
		MYANMAR						
		NEPAL						
		PAKISTAN IR	1.80	0.01				
		SRI LANKA DSR	51.57	0.21				
		TIMOR-LESTE						
	SPLIT ARECA NUTS Total		89.37	0.25	3383.00	5.28	216.00	0.31
08028090	OTHER ARECA NUTS	AFGHANISTAN			3.36	0.01		

		AUSTRALIA			0.40	0.00		
		BANGLADESH PR						
		INDONESIA			3084.00	12.27	189.00	0.23
		MYANMAR						
		PAKISTAN IR						
		SINGAPORE						
		SRI LANKA DSR	11509.69	45.89	10728.96	40.29	18.00	0.07
		U ARAB EMTS						
		U K						
		VIETNAM SOC REP			32.00	0.08		
	OTHER ARECA NUTS Total		11509.69	45.89	13848.72	52.66	207.00	0.29

Note 1: No import of item having ITCHS Code '08028030' (Ground Areca nuts) have been reported during the said periods.

Note 2: Figures pertaining to the financial years 2018-19 & 2019-20 are Provisional and subject to changes

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 802
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th JUNE, 2019

MERCHANDISE EXPORT

802. SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA

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

- (a) whether it is true that despite achieving a record high of \$321.02 billion in merchandise exports, the country missed its own target of \$330 billion, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to increase merchandise exports;
- (c) whether the country has experienced a high trade deficit for merchandise goods for the year 2018-19;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal to increase FDI through schemes like 'Make in India' by relaxing rules in FDI in several sectors and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

- (a):** India has achieved a record high of 330.07 US\$ billion of merchandise exports in the year 2018-19, registering a positive growth of 8.75% as compared to the previous year.
- (b):** Government has taken following steps to increase exports:
- i A new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 was launched on 1st April 2015. The policy, inter alia, rationalised the earlier export promotion schemes and introduced two new schemes, namely Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) for improving export of goods and 'Services Exports from India Scheme (SEIS)' for increasing

exports of services. Duty credit scrips issued under these schemes were made fully transferable.

- ii The Mid-term Review of the FTP 2015-20 was undertaken on 5th December, 2017. Incentive rates for labour intensive / MSME sectors were increased by 2% with a financial implication of Rs 8,450 cr per year.
- iii A new Logistics Division was created in the Department of Commerce to coordinate integrated development of the logistics sector. India's rank in World Bank's Logistics Performance Index moved up from 54 in 2014 to 44 in 2018.
- iv Interest Equalization Scheme on pre and post shipment rupee export credit was introduced from 1.4.2015 providing interest equalisation at 3% for labour intensive / MSME sectors. The rate was increased to 5% for MSME sectors with effect from 2.11.2018 and merchant exporters were covered under the scheme with effect from 2.1.2019.
- v Various measures for improving ease of doing business were taken. India's rank in World Bank 'Ease of doing business' ranking improved from 142 in 2014 to 77 in 2018 with the rank in 'trading across borders' moving up from 122 to 80.
- vi A new scheme called "Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES)" was launched with effect from 1st April 2017 to address the export infrastructure gaps in the country.
- vii A comprehensive "Agriculture Export Policy" was launched on 6th December, 2018 with an aim to double farmers' income by 2022 and provide an impetus to agricultural exports.
- viii A new scheme called "Transport and Marketing Assistance" (TMA) scheme has been launched for mitigating disadvantage of higher cost of transportation for export of specified agriculture products.
- ix A new scheme called Scheme for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) covering export of garments and made-ups was notified on 7.3.2019 providing refund of duties/taxes at higher rates.

(c) & (d): The trade deficit of merchandise goods increased from 162.05 US\$ billions in 2017-18 to 183.96 US\$ billions in 2018-19. The trade deficit depends upon relative fluctuations in the import and export of different commodities due to various 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, cost of credit, logistics costs, etc. Trade deficit during 2018-19 has increased primarily due to higher imports of petroleum crude and products, electronic goods and machinery items and less export of gems and jewellery, textiles items and marine products.

(e): Government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy for FDI, wherein most of the sectors are open to FDI under the automatic route. The Government reviews the FDI policy on an ongoing basis and makes necessary changes from time to time to ensure that India remains attractive and investor friendly destination. FDI in various sectors is allowed in a calibrated manner after having consultations with stakeholders, including concerned Ministries/ Departments, State Governments, apex industry chambers, Associations and other organizations, and taking into consideration their views/comments.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 854 (H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th JUNE, 2019

BANNED COMMODITIES

854(H). SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA:

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

- (a) the details of those commodities whose export has been banned by the Government;
- (b) the details and the reasons in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to review the policy in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANWSER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) and (b): The items which are prohibited for exports are annexed at Annexure –I.

The prohibitions / restrictions placed on items is on account of various reasons such as protection of public morals, protection of human, animal or plant life or health, protection of national treasures of artistic, historic or archaeological value, conservation of exhaustible natural resources etc.

(c) and (d) Within a broad framework, export and import policies of various commodities are dynamic in nature and are reviewed by the Government from time to time in a need based manner to address emerging situations.

Annexure I

List of Items which are prohibited and cannot be exported as per the present export policy, 2018

S.No.	Item Description
1.	All wild animals, animal articles including their products and derivatives excluding those for which ownership certificates have been granted and also those required for transactions for education, scientific research and management under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, including their parts and products.
2.	Live exotic birds except few whose export is freely allowed.
3.	Beef of cows, oxen and calf
4.	Meat of buffalo- fresh, chilled and frozen in Carcasses and half carcasses Other cuts with bone in.
5.	Beef in the form of offal of cows, oxen and calf.
6.	Marine species (and their parts, products and derivatives) mentioned in the Schedules of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972
7.	Beche-de-mer (Sea Cucumber)
8.	Shark fins of all species of shark
9.	Panulirus polyphagus, Panulirus homarus, Panulirus Ornatus Sand Lobster (different types of lobsters)-of specified weights
10.	Human skeletons
11.	Peacock Tail Feathers and Handicrafts and articles of peacock tail feathers
12.	Shavings of Shed Antlers of Chital and Sambhar
13.	Manufactured Articles of shavings of shed antlers of chital and sambhar
14.	Sea shells, including polished sea shells and handicrafts made out of those species included in the Schedules of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
15.	Plants and plant portions of wild origin, of species specified in any of the Schedules of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 or Appendix I of Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES) or Export Licensing Note 1
16.	Tallow, fat and/or oils of any animal origin excluding fish oil, buffalo tallow and Lanolin
17.	All Edible Oils under Chapter 15
18.	Chemicals under Montreal Protocol when exported to a country which is not party to the 'Montreal Protocol on substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer'
19.	Specific types of condoms
20.	Wood and wood products in the form of logs, timber, stumps, roots, bark, chips, powder, flakes, dust, and charcoal other than sawn timber made exclusively out of imported logs/timber.
21.	Fuel wood, in logs, in billets, in twigs, in faggots or in similar forms; Wood in chips or particles; Sawdust and wood waste and scrap, whether or not agglomerated in logs, briquettes, pellets or similar forms

22.	Wood charcoal, whether or not agglomerated
23.	Wood sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end jointed, or a thickness exceeding 6 mm other than sawn timber made exclusively out of imported logs/timber.
24.	Sandalwood in any form except finished handicrafts, sandalwood oil
25.	Red Sanders wood in any form, whether raw, processed or unprocessed
26.	Mechanical wood pulp
27.	Chemical wood pulp, dissolving grades
28.	Chemical wood pulp, soda or sulphate, other than dissolving grades.
29.	Chemical wood pulp, sulphite, other than dissolving grade.
30.	Semi chemical Wood Pulp

Note: Item wise export policy at HS code level is contained in the Schedule 2- Export Policy of the ITC (HS) classification.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 871
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th JUNE, 2019

CASHEW INDUSTRY

871. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a comprehensive scheme for the protection of cashew industry and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (b) whether the Government has taken note of the crisis in the cashew industry;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/being taken by the Government for the protection of cashew industry;
- (d) the details of the action taken by the Government to ensure the supply of raw cashew nuts at a reasonable price;
- (e) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that cashew industries in the State of Kerala have been closed due to the non-availability of raw cashew nuts; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to ensure availability of sufficient quantity of raw cashew nuts to these industries?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a), (b) & (c) : It has come to the notice of the Government that due to supply situation of raw cashew nut in the international market, certain section of the cashew industry is having issues in operation. The Government has no proposal to introduce a comprehensive scheme for protection of cashew industry at present. Government has taken several steps to address the issues in cashew industry.

- Import policy for cashew kernel, broken (08013210) and cashew kernel, whole (08013220) has been revised from “free” to “prohibited” with the condition that “import is free if CIF value is above Rs.680/- per kg import of cashew kernel, broken (08013210)” and “import is free if CIF value is above Rs.720/- per kg import cashew kernel, whole (08013220)” vide DGFT notification dated 12.06.2019.
- Basic Custom Duty on import of raw cashew nut has been reduced from 5% to 2.5% w.e.f 01.02.2018.

- 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 from India Scheme (MEIS) for cashew was increased to 5% (from 3%) for cashew kernel and 7% (from 5%) for salted/roasted cashew, respectively.
- The Standard Inputs Output Norms (SION) was revised to 1 kg kernel from 5.04 kg of raw cashew nuts as against earlier norms of 1 kg from 4 kg of raw cashew nut for export of Cashew Kernel, from imported raw cashew nut under Advance Authorization Scheme.
- Approved Medium Term Framework (2017-2020) Scheme for Process Mechanization and Automation of Cashew Processing Units with financial outlay of Rs.60.00 crore. A sum of Rs.5.00 crore has been released to Cashew Export Promotion Council till March,2019 as grant-in-aid under MTF (2017-20).
- Duty free import of raw cashewnuts is allowed under Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme from Least Developed Countries (LDCs).
- Extended financial assistance to Cashew Export Promotion Council of India (CEPCI) for organizing Buyer Seller Meet (BSM) and participation in International fair under Market Access Initiative (MAI) scheme, in order to tap new markets and Branding.

(d) & (f) Indian cashew industry is heavily dependent on the imported raw cashewnuts (about 50% of requirement) for fulfilling domestic and export demand for cashew kernels. Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmer's Welfare (DAC&FW), under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), 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. DAC&FW has approved the roadmap programme of **Directorate of Cashewnut & Cocoa Development (DCCD)** to extend the area of cashew cultivation by 1.20 lakh hectare. Production of raw cashew nut during 2017-18 has increased by 4.83 % 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 .

(e) No, Sir. The Government has no information regarding closure of cashew industry due to non-availability of raw cashew nut.
