

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 353
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th MARCH, 2020

COASTAL EXPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

*353. SHRI PINAKI MISRA:

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

- (a) whether any measures are being taken by the Government to boost export infrastructure along coastal region in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the procedural aspects related to exporting goods are in line with the best global practices and the time taken in this regard globally;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, whether there are any plans to reduce the time taken with respect to procedural aspects of exporting?

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. 353 FOR ANSWER ON 18thMARCH, 2020
REGARDING “COASTAL EXPORT INFRASTRUCTURE”.**

(a) & (b) : Government of India has many sector specific schemes to boost infrastructure including that in coastal regions of the country. Some of the flagship schemes are mentioned below:

SAGARMALA PROGRAMME-

The Sagarmala Programme is focusing on the following:

- a) **Port Modernization & New Port Development:** De-bottlenecking and capacity expansion of existing ports and development of new greenfield ports.
- b) **Port Connectivity Enhancement:** Enhancing the connectivity of the ports to the hinterland, optimizing cost and time of cargo movement through multi-modal logistics solutions including domestic waterways (inland water transport and coastal shipping).
- c) **Port-linked Industrialization:** Developing port-proximate industrial clusters and Coastal Economic Zones to reduce logistics cost and time of EXIM and domestic cargo.
- d) **Coastal Community Development:** Promoting sustainable development of coastal communities through skill development & livelihood generation activities, fisheries development, coastal tourism etc.

BHARATMALA PARIYOJANA

Under the Bharatmala Pariyojana (Phase-I) of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, development of about 9,000 kms of Economic corridors, about 6,000 kms of Inter-corridor and feeder roads, about 5,000 kms of National Corridors Efficiency improvements, about 2,000 kms of Border and International connectivity roads, about 2,000 kms of Coastal and port connectivity roads, about 800 kms of Expressways and about 10,000 kms of roads under National Highways Development Project (NHDP), has been taken up. Six road projects with an aggregate length of about 168 kms at a cost of about Rs. 1842 Crores have been awarded under Coastal and port connectivity roads component of the Bharatmala Pariyojana upto February, 2020.

(c), (d) & (e) : India's latest ranking on Trading Across Border has risen from 133rd in 2016 to 68th in 2020 as per the Ease of Doing Business, 2020 Report of the World Bank. As per this report, time taken for border compliance for exports and imports improved significantly during this period.

The port operation procedures for export of goods are in line with the best global practices with simple, user friendly port formalities. Some of the improved practices and technologies adopted at important Ports including Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT), Navi Mumbai, which is handling the highest volume of EXIM containers, is attached as **Annexure I**.

Internal linkages among Indian Customs Electronic Gateway (ICEGATE), Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and other systems has enabled customs clearances to be processed online.

India is also a signatory to the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, which inter alia includes formalities connected with importation, exportation and Transit.

Annexure-I referred to in reply to Parts (c), (d) and (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 353 raised by Shri Pinaki Misra to be answered on 18-03-2020 regarding Coastal Export Infrastructure

IMPROVED PRACTICES AND TECHNOLOGIES ADOPTED BY IN IMPORTANT PORTS.

1. Direct Port Entry (DPE) –

The Direct Port Entry (DPE) is the facility created for exporters to bring in the export containers directly to port instead of routing it through CFS wherein they used to get customs approval and then used to proceed to terminal gates. Measures which were taken with Customs to facilitate DPE are like Creation of Customs Processing Zones & Development of centralized Parking Plaza.

2. Container Scanners –

8 Container Scanners have been installed not only at Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT), but also at Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT), Kolkata Port Trust (KoPT), Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL), New Mangalore Port Trust (NMPT) and Paradip Port Trust (PPT), for faster scanning of EXIM containers to reduce port's Dwell Time.

3. Port Community System (PCS) –

A centralized web-based Port Community System has been operationalized across all Major Ports which enables seamless information flow between the various stakeholders through a common interface.

4. Elimination of Manual Forms –

Manual forms used for access to terminals have in some ports been replaced by Web based e -forms. This has cut down the waiting time for container at the port gate and enabled faster evacuation of cargo and reduced congestion at the port gates.

5. Development of Centralized Parking Plaza at JNPT –

The JNPT is developing a Centralized Parking Plaza to provide parking facility for trucks carrying export containers and enable completing pre-gate entry formalities and documentation for export thereby decongesting the JNPT roads.

6. New e-Rubber Tyre Gantry Cranes (RTGCs) –

JNPT has commissioned 15 new e-Rubber Tyre Gantry Cranes (RTGCs) to improve export efficiency & faster loading operation, that has increased the productivity of stacking containers.

7. Common Rail Yard to handle DFC rakes –

JNPT has already undertaken infrastructure work for modifications of Common Rail Yard to handle DFC rakes.

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 357
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th MARCH, 2020

DISPUTES BEFORE THE WTO

*357. SHRI JAYADEV GALLA:

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

- (a) whether India has more than 30 ongoing disputes before the World Trade Organization (WTO);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the countries involved therein;
- (c) the details of the disputes in which India is a complainant and in which India is a respondent; and
- (d) the likely future of the WTO in view of threats from some countries to stop its budget?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)
THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 357 FOR ANSWER ON 18thMARCH, 2020
REGARDING “DISPUTES BEFORE THE WTO”.**

(a) to (c): Currently, India is involved in 15 disputes at the WTO, in which it is complainant in 4 and respondent in 11. The details of these disputes is annexed.

(d) : The WTO's annual budget is derived from contributions by its Members according to a formula based on their share of international trade. WTO budget for Financial Year 2020 was approved, albeit with some delay, in 2019 which has ensured WTO's continued operation till December 2020.

As on 16.03.2020

Details of India's disputes at WTO

India currently has 15 disputes with other members of WTO (4 as Complainant and 11 as respondent) and details of these are as under:

Disputes with the United States-8 (4 each as complainant and respondent)

Japan-2 (as respondent)

Brazil, Australia, Guatemala, the EU, Taiwan (one each as respondent)

A. Disputes where India is a Complaining party (4 cases)

- i) DS436 (Countervailing duty by United States on Indian steel products)

Respondent- The United States

- ii) DS-503 (Measures by US concerning non-immigrant visas)

Respondent- The United States

- iii) DS-510 (Sub-Federal Renewable energy programmes of US)

Respondent- The United States

- iv) DS-547 (Certain measures by US on Steel and Aluminium products)

Respondent- The United States

B) WTO disputes where India is a Responding Party (11 cases)

- v) DS-430: (Prohibition by India on Import of poultry and poultry products)

Complainant – The United States

- vi) DS-456 (India's Measures Relating to Solar Cells and Solar Modules under National Solar Mission dispute)

Complainant – The United States

vii) DS-518 (India's safeguard measures on import of iron and steel products)

Complainant – Japan

viii) DS-541 (India's Export Promotion Schemes)-Complainant-United States

Complainant – The United States

ix-xi) DS579, DS580 and DS581 (India-Measures Concerning Sugar and Sugarcane)-

Complainants- Brazil, Australia and Guatemala, respectively

xii-xiv) DS582 and DS584, DS588 (India-Tariff Treatment on Certain Good in the Information and Communications Technology Sector)-

Complainants- EU, Japan and Taiwan, respectively

xv) DS-585 (Additional duties on certain products from US)-

Complainant– The United States

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3919
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th MARCH, 2020

FTA ON MILK AND ITS PRODUCTS

3919. SHRI JASBIR SINGH GILL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has signed Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) on milk and its products with any country;
- (b) if so, the details of such countries;
- (c) whether any such FTA has been signed with New Zealand and Australia; and
- (d) the details of the steps proposed by the Government to protect domestic dairy farmers?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)
THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (b): Government has not signed any Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) on milk with ASEAN, Japan and Korea. However, market access has been provided on some milk products like buttermilk, yogurt and some varieties of cheese in FTAs with ASEAN and Japan.

(c): India has not signed any FTA with New Zealand or Australia.

(d): In order to protect the interest of dairy farmers as well as promote dairy in the country, Government of India is implementing various schemes, namely, Rashtriya Gokul Mission, National Programme for Dairy Development, Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme, Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund, Supporting Dairy Cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organizations engaged in dairy activities, National Livestock Mission and Livestock Health & Disease Control scheme.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3925
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th MARCH, 2020

TRADE IN FOODGRAINS

3925. SHRI DEVUSINH JESINGHBHAI CHAUHAN:

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

- (a) the quantum and cost of foodgrains exported and imported in India during the last five years along with the names of countries to which such exports/ imports have been made;
- (b) the list of such foodgrains that have been imported at the rates higher than the exporting rates along with the details of losses incurred by the Government; and
- (c) the reasons behind this type of trade deficit?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)
THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (c): The quantity and value of food grains exported and imported and trade deficit during the last five years including current year are as follows:

(Quantity in Thousand Tonne) (Value in US\$ Billion)

Year	Category	RICE (BASMATI)		RICE(OTHER THAN BASMATI)		WHEAT		OTHER CEREALS		PULSES	
		Qty	Val	Qty	Val	Qty	Val	Qty	Val	Qty	Val
2015-16	Export	4045.8	3.5	6464.6	2.4	666.7	0.16	967.9	0.3	255.7	0.25
	Import			1.0	0.0009	517.7	0.14	206.1	0.1	5797.7	3.90
	Trade Deficit		3.5		2.4		0.03		0.2		-3.65
2016-17	Export	3985.2	3.2	6770.8	2.5	265.6	0.1	734.8	0.2	136.7	0.19
	Import			1.1	0.001	5749.4	1.3	311.4	0.1	6609.5	4.24
	Trade Deficit		3.2		2.52		-1.2		0.1		-4.05
2017-18	Export	4056.8	4.2	8818.5	3.6	322.8	0.1	864.2	0.25	179.6	0.23
	Import			2.1	0.002	1649.7	0.4	265.1	0.07	5607.5	2.91
	Trade Deficit		4.2		3.63		-0.3		0.18		-2.68

Year	Category	RICE (BASMATI)		RICE(OTHER THAN BASMATI)		WHEAT		OTHER CEREALS		PULSES	
		Qty	Val	Qty	Val	Qty	Val	Qty	Val	Qty	Val
2018-19	Export	4414.6	4.7	7648.0	3.0	226.6	0.1	1257.2	0.35	287.1	0.26
	Import			6.9	0.005	2.7	0.001	244.3	0.07	2527.9	1.14
	Trade Deficit		4.7		3.0		0.059		0.28		-0.88
2019-20 (Apr-Jan)*	Export	3299.3	3.40	4015.5	1.63	185.6	0.05	424.6	0.17	179.5	0.175
	Import			5.0	0.01	1.7	0.0006	478.6	0.12	2628.1	1.271
	Trade Deficit				1.62		0.0521		0.05		-1.096

Source: DGCI&S, *Provisional

Food grains Export to and Import from major countries during last five years including current year are at **Annexure-I** and **Annexure-II** respectively. Trade deficit depends upon relative fluctuations in the import and export of different commodities due to the global and domestic factors such as demand and supply in domestic and international markets, currency fluctuations, international prices, etc.

Statement referred to in reply of part (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred question no. 3925 for answer on 18th March 2020

List of the major countries to which food grains were exported during last five years including current year

Sr. No.	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (Apr- Jan)
1	Bangladesh PR	Algeria	Belgium	Bangladesh PR	Australia
2	Benin	Australia	Benin	Belgium	Bangladesh PR
3	Cote D' Ivoire	Bangladesh PR	Cote D' Ivoire	Benin	Benin
4	Guinea	Belgium	Djibouti	Canada	Canada
5	Indonesia	Benin	Egypt A Rp	Cote D' Ivoire	Cote D' Ivoire
6	Iran	Canada	Ghana	Djibouti	Djibouti
7	Iraq	Cote D' Ivoire	Guinea	Guinea	Egypt A Rp
8	Jordan	Djibouti	Iran	Iran	Guinea
9	Kuwait	Guinea	Iraq	Iraq	Indonesia
10	Liberia	Iran	Jordan	Italy	Iran
11	Malaysia	Iraq	Kuwait	Jordan	Iraq
12	Nepal	Jordan	Liberia	Kuwait	Israel
13	Netherland	Kuwait	Madagascar	Liberia	Jordan
14	Nigeria	Liberia	Nepal	Madagascar	Kuwait
15	Oman	Nepal	Netherland	Nepal	Liberia
16	Pakistan IR	Netherland	Niger	Netherland	Madagascar
17	Qatar	Oman	Oman	Oman	Nepal
18	Saudi Arab	Pakistan IR	Qatar	Qatar	Oman
19	Senegal	Qatar	Saudi Arab	Saudi Arab	Philippines
20	Singapore	Saudi Arab	Senegal	Senegal	Qatar
21	Somalia	Senegal	Singapore	Somalia	Saudi Arab
22	South Africa	Singapore	Somalia	South Africa	Senegal
23	Sri Lanka Dsr	Somalia	South Africa	Sri Lanka Dsr	Somalia
24	Turkey	South Africa	Sri Lanka Dsr	Togo	South Africa
25	U Arab Emts	Turkey	Turkey	Turkey	Togo
26	U K	U Arab Emts	U Arab Emts	U Arab Emts	U Arab Emts
27	U S A	U K	U K	U K	U K
28	Vietnam Soc Rep	U S A	U S A	U S A	U S A

Source: DGCI&S

Statement referred to in reply of part (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred question no. 3925 for answer on 18th March 2020

List of the major countries from which food grains were imported during last five years including current year

Sr. No	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (Apr-Jan)
1	Afghanistan	Afghanistan	Afghanistan	Afghanistan	Argentina
2	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina
3	Australia	Australia	Australia	Australia	Australia
4	Brazil	Bulgaria	Brazil	Austria	Brazil
5	Canada	Canada	Bulgaria	Brazil	Canada
6	China P Rp	China P Rp	Canada	Canada	China P Rp
7	Ethiopia	Estonia	China P Rp	China P Rp	Denmark
8	France	Ethiopia	Ethiopia	Djibouti	Djibouti
9	Indonesia	France	France	Ethiopia	Ethiopia
10	Kenya	Germany	Germany	Kenya	France
11	Lithuania	Kenya	Lithuania	Kyrgyzstan	Malawi
12	Madagascar	Lithuania	Malawi	Lithuania	Mozambique
13	Malawi	Malawi	Mexico	Malawi	Myanmar
14	Mexico	Moldova	Mozambique	Mozambique	Myanmar
15	Mozambique	Mozambique	Myanmar	Myanmar	Russia
16	Myanmar	Myanmar	Romania	Netherland	Russia
17	Russia	Romania	Russia	Russia	Singapore
18	Sudan	Russia	Sudan	Singapore	Sudan
19	Tanzania Rep	Sudan	Tanzania Rep	South Africa	Tanzania Rep
20	Thailand	Tanzania Rep	Turkey	Sudan	Turkey
21	U S A	U S A	U S A	Tanzania Rep	U Arab Emts
22	Uganda	Uganda	Ukraine	Turkey	U S A
23	Ukraine	Ukraine	Uruguay	U Arab Emts	Ukraine
24	Uzbekistan	Uzbekistan	Uzbekistan	U S A	Ukraine

Source: DGCI&S.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3932
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th MARCH, 2020

EXPORT OF PROCESSED FRUITS

3932. SHRI N. REDDEPPA:

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

- (a) the percentage of exported processed fruits from India that come from the units established and are functional in Andhra Pradesh, particularly in the Chittoor district in the financial year 2019-20;
- (b) the year-wise amount per unit earned in the export of processed fruits in the Chittoor district;
- (c) whether the fruit pulp industry in India, in partnership with the Government, offers incentives to these units to boost exports; 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 & b) The details on percentage of exported processed fruits from India from the State of Andhra Pradesh, in the financial year 2019-20, are as under:

Period	All India		Andhra Pradesh		% Share in Export Value
	Qty in TON	Val in Mil. USD	Qty in TON	Val in Mil. USD	
2019-20 (Apr'19-Dec'19*)	413349	465.58	70529	58.51	12.6

Source: DGCI&S

District-wise export data is not maintained by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S).

(c & d) Promotion of agricultural exports, including the exports of fruit pulp, is a continuous process. To promote the agricultural exports, the Government has introduced a comprehensive Agriculture Export Policy. The Government has also 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 Agricultural & Processed Food

Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has the mandate to promote exports of fruit pulp. Financial assistance is available for the exporters of fruit pulp under the various components of APEDA's export promotion scheme. The Department of Commerce also has several schemes to promote exports, including exports of fruit pulp, viz. Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES), Market Access Initiatives (MAI) Scheme, Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) etc.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3943
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th MARCH, 2020

WTO RULING AGAINST INDIA

3943. SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

- (a) whether on an appeal by the United States of America (USA) the World Trade Organization (WTO) panel has ruled against India's Export Promotion Schemes;
- (b) if so, whether the WTO has given any time frame to withdraw the concessions under the Merchandise Export India Scheme (MEIS), Special Economic Zone (SEZ), etc.;
- (c) if so, whether as per the US Convention, India gives nearly \$ 7 billion subsidies to Indian exporters; and
- (d) if so, the details of India's stand on the WTO ruling and the steps taken by the Government to save the exporters who are already reeling under recession?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)
THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b): A Dispute Settlement Panel of WTO in its report issued to members on 31 October 2019 has ruled India's export promotion schemes (e.g. Merchandise Exports from India Scheme, Export Oriented Units Scheme, Special Economic Zone Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme and Duty Free Imports for Exporters Scheme etc) to be export contingent and in the nature of prohibited subsidies under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures and thus inconsistent with WTO norms. The Panel has given time-frame of 90-180 days for withdrawal of these schemes. However, India has appealed the Panel Report on 19 November, 2019 and due to non-functioning of Appellate Body, the appeal has been kept in suspension. Till the appeal is disposed off, India is under no obligation to implement the recommendations of Panel.

(c)& (d): Though US has claimed that India is providing subsidies on above mentioned schemes, India has taken the stand in dispute that the subsidies are not export contingent and thus consistent with WTO norms. India has filed appeal against the Panel ruling.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3965
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th MARCH, 2020

EXPORT OF ENGINEERING GOODS

3965. SHRI GAUTHAM SIGAMANI PON:
SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:
SHRI SELVAM G.:
DR. HEENA GAVIT:
SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR:

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

- (a) the list of the countries to whom India exports its engineering goods along with the quantum of foreign exchange earned during each of the last three years;
- (b) whether the Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC), as the apex body in charge of promoting engineering goods, has failed to promote the export of engineering goods from the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of the target fixed and the actual export of engineering goods reported during each of the last three years;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to provide fiscal incentives including extension of interest subvention scheme and other stimulus to the engineering sector to stem the fall in the export of engineering goods; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the specific steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost the export of engineering goods from the country?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)
THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

- (a) The list of countries to which India exports its engineering goods, along with the value of exports (in US Dollars) from India to each of the countries, during the last three years is given in Annexure –I.

- (b)&(c) EEPC India is a Council set up under the aegis of Department of Commerce for promoting exports in the engineering sector and acts as an interface between the engineering industry and the Government.

The value of engineering exports from India in the last three years is as under:

(In US\$ billion)

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Engineering Exports	65.24	76.21	81.02
Growth(%) over the previous year	11.33	16.81	6.31

As may be seen from the above, engineering exports have shown healthy year-on-year growth rates of 11.33%, 16.81% and 6.31% respectively, during the last three years.

- (d) The target for engineering exports fixed by EEPC India and the actual exports during the last three years in respect of engineering sector are given below:

(US\$ billion)

Engineering Exports	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Target	65	70	80
Actual Export	65.24	76.21	81.02

- (e)& (f) Government has taken several initiatives for enhancing the competitiveness of Indian exports, especially the engineering sector, which, inter-alia, include the following:

- (i) The Cabinet has recently approved a Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) for re-imbursement of taxes/ duties/ levies, which are currently not being refunded under any other mechanism, at the Central, State and local level, which are incurred in the process of manufacture and distribution of exported products.
- (ii) Under the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), introduced in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 on 1st April, 2015 with the objective to offset infrastructural inefficiencies and associated costs involved in exporting goods/products which are produced/manufactured in India, duty credit scrips based on realized FOB value of exports of notified tariff lines are granted, which are transferable and can be used to pay certain Central Duties/taxes including customs duties. At present, the Scheme covers exports of more than 7500 tariff lines, including goods from the engineering sector.
- (iii) Interest Equalization Scheme on pre and post shipment rupee export credit was introduced from 1.4.2015 providing interest equalization 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.
- (iv) A new Scheme called “Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES)” was launched with effect from 1.4.2017 to address the export infrastructure gaps in the country.
- (v) A variety of export promotion activities are undertaken through EEPC India, including the annual International Engineering Sourcing Show in India and the Indian Engineering Exhibitions across the world, for promoting engineering exports.
- (vi) The brand ‘Indian Engineering’ is promoted to enhance the global image of Indian engineering products.
- (vii) Technology upgradation initiative for development of cutting-edge export-oriented technologies, etc.

Annex-I

Country-Wise details of engineering exports for the last 3 years

Value in US\$ million				
SI No	COUNTRY (Values in US\$ million)	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
1	U S A	7115.9	10270.1	11906.7
2	UAE	4021.5	4193.7	4304.1
3	SINGAPORE	2833.3	1996.7	3483.7
4	GERMANY	2215.5	3213.8	3244.9
5	NEPAL	2164.9	2571	2977.8
6	BANGLADESH	1998.7	2455.3	2864.2
7	U K	2529.1	2854	2803.7
8	MEXICO	2449.1	2674.8	2505.3
9	INDONESIA	1421.1	1784.6	2362.7
10	ITALY	2086.3	2462.3	2352.7
11	CHINA	1973.2	3223.7	1834
12	MALAYSIA	2406.9	2021.3	1757.9
13	SRI LANKA	1434.5	1579.1	1740.1
14	KOREA RP	1602.4	1931.3	1734.5
15	TURKEY	1550.6	1761.2	1731.2
16	THAILAND	970	1241.1	1619.4
17	BELGIUM	1220.2	1406.7	1615.7
18	SOUTH AFRICA	1063.4	1355.2	1553.8
19	SAUDI ARABIA	1231.4	1271.8	1438.9
20	FRANCE	1694.9	1422.6	1403.4
21	NIGERIA	580.2	877.7	1338.1
22	JAPAN	801.1	1056.2	1233.4
23	VIETNAM	1133.1	1175.3	1179.4
24	SPAIN	963	1196.6	1142.8
25	BRAZIL	627.4	926.3	1028.3
26	NETHERLAND	922.8	891	1007.2
27	CANADA	430.7	714.3	886.4
28	AUSTRALIA	601.6	792.9	877.8
29	OMAN	745.4	613	816.1
30	EGYPT	499	758.9	764.2
31	TAIWAN	855.7	787.1	722.7
32	PHILIPPINES	549.2	670.4	664.6
33	COLOMBIA	385.6	508.9	579.4
34	KENYA	521.4	510.1	562.2
35	RUSSIA	553.5	511.1	544.8
36	POLAND	343.5	527.2	537.6
37	QATAR	214.6	514.5	525.5
38	CHILE	332.5	365.9	500.4
39	KUWAIT	645.2	538.4	467.4
40	ALGERIA	381.3	429.3	465.9
41	TANZANIA REP	236.7	275.9	342.5
42	IRAN	499.5	495.7	326.9
43	ISRAEL	356.1	452.8	312.8
44	BAHARAIN IS	177.4	227	307
45	ETHIOPIA	369.4	330.5	301
46	SWEDEN	237.7	263.5	294.3
47	BHUTAN	273.7	221.7	262.3
48	ROMANIA	117.7	218.3	252.6
49	HONG KONG	127.1	291	234.7
50	GHANA	246	232.8	234.3

51	MYANMAR	204.4	353.7	229.1
52	PERU	354.8	323.6	225.1
53	AUSTRIA	146.9	204.7	218.8
54	SWITZERLAND	259.6	164.7	194.4
55	UGANDA	153.3	176.5	193.9
56	PAKISTAN IR	140.6	189.5	181.7
57	DENMARK	167	196.6	180
58	CZECH REPUBLIC	321.9	173	178.1
59	ARGENTINA	178.8	292.2	166.3
60	SUDAN	138.9	162.5	163.7
61	ECUADOR	111.8	149.5	159.8
62	GREECE	116.2	137.6	156.6
63	IRAQ	96.8	121.9	147
64	AFGHANISTAN	43.6	132.9	145.2
65	PORTUGAL	155.3	168.2	138.5
66	TUNISIA	109.8	106.1	133.6
67	HUNGARY	139.8	142.6	131
68	MOROCCO	125.4	104.4	127.6
69	GUATEMALA	104.9	139.5	123.6
70	SENEGAL	188.3	153.9	117
71	IRELAND	85.4	95.9	112.6
72	CONGO D. REP.	51.1	63.9	111.4
73	UZBEKISTAN	45.1	53.2	100.7
74	MOZAMBIQUE	58	82	100.1
75	ZAMBIA	64.7	76.6	100.1
76	MAURITIUS	140.1	95.9	97
77	GUINEA	55.7	86.5	95.6
78	NEW ZEALAND	66.5	86	92
79	DJIBOUTI	50.7	74.7	84.9
80	LEBANON	54.3	77	84.1
81	BULGARIA	144.6	55.7	82
82	JORDAN	80.8	62.8	79.9
83	FINLAND	67.7	95.1	77.1
84	COTE D' IVOIRE	94.1	185.2	77
85	CAMBODIA	18.3	21.4	76.7
86	RWANDA	37.2	32.3	74.9
87	UKRAINE	62	77.8	72
88	PANAMA REPUBLIC	88.5	81.1	71
89	URUGUAY	54	40.4	66.4
90	NORWAY	48.8	140.4	65.4
91	BURKINA FASO	39.7	57.2	62.9
92	BOLIVIA	53.3	70.7	61.6
93	COSTA RICA	100	76.9	60.7
94	MAURITANIA	6.9	20.8	57.8
95	PARAGUAY	60	76.9	56.8
96	SLOVAK REP	48.5	55.7	56.5
97	MALAWI	65.3	58.8	56.2
98	MALDIVES	45.5	60.6	55.6
99	SOMALIA	40.9	56.8	53.7
100	CONGO P REP	43.9	35.3	53.6
101	MALI	36.6	44.4	53
102	SEYCHELLES	16.6	19.3	52.8
103	DOMINIC REP	101.2	51.2	52.4
104	SLOVENIA	26.5	51.4	51.6
105	BENIN	72.7	55.1	48.7
106	ANGOLA	25.3	31.4	47.4
107	SIERRA LEONE	24	32.6	47.3
108	NAMIBIA	11.5	9.8	45.9
109	HONDURAS	39.8	49	45.7
110	PUERTO RICO	12	17.8	42

111	LIBYA	44.4	20.9	38.2
112	LATVIA	32.6	32	37.2
113	ZIMBABWE	22.9	30.2	36.6
114	YEMEN REPUBLC	38.4	33.3	35.8
115	LITHUANIA	27.1	28.5	34.1
116	ESTONIA	21.6	29.5	34
117	LAO PD RP	14.3	16.2	30.6
118	CAMEROON	26	49.9	30.2
119	TRINIDAD	33.6	35.6	28.7
120	MADAGASCAR	28	28.4	27.4
121	LIBERIA	25.2	120.6	27.3
122	CROATIA	9.7	14	26.1
123	EL SALVADOR	25.5	25.9	25.7
124	BRUNEI	13.8	29.2	22.7
125	NICARAGUA	53.1	48.1	22.1
126	LUXEMBOURG	7.7	7.4	22
127	SYRIA	20.8	24.1	21.9
128	KAZAKHSTAN	13.5	23.7	21.5
129	GAMBIA	8	19.2	21.2
130	MONTENEGRO	19.6	34.3	19.6
131	BOTSWANA	8	12.1	18.5
132	GABON	15.8	11.4	18.2
133	SERBIA	11.7	13.9	18.1
134	GEORGIA	30.7	10.3	18.1
135	TOGO	24.3	22.3	18
136	JAMAICA	14.6	17.2	17.8
137	MALTA	6.7	10.7	17.4
138	PAPUA N GNA	11.1	12.6	15.6
139	BURUNDI	6.5	7.9	15.5
140	AZERBAIJAN	20	11.1	15.4
141	FIJI IS	14.9	14.5	14.9
142	MONGOLIA	1.2	11.9	11.3
143	HAITI	7.1	13	11
144	CHAD	6.5	8.3	10.7
145	BR VIRGN IS	0	0	10.3
146	CUBA	9.6	7.8	10.1
147	SURINAME	2.4	7.5	9.9
148	CYPRUS	9	9.9	9
149	GUYANA	6.4	6.2	9
150	NIGER	12.6	15	8.7
151	NETHERLANDANTIL	13	12.2	8.5
152	BOSNIA-HRZGOVIN	1.3	5.2	8.1
153	BARBADOS	8.5	7.6	7.9
154	ALBANIA	8.1	6.4	6.5
155	ARUBA	5.7	4.3	6.3
156	UNSPECIFIED	162.8	2.2	5.5
157	SOUTH SUDAN	2.1	0.6	5.3
158	BELARUS	5	6.3	5.2
159	NEW CALEDONIA	5.7	3.7	5
160	REUNION	4.3	4.1	4.9
161	VENEZUELA	17.8	7.6	4.8
162	TURKMENISTAN	15.2	6.4	4.3
163	TAJIKISTAN	0.6	0.7	4.3
164	GUINEA BISSAU	11.3	1.8	4
165	SWAZILAND	1.9	3.5	4
166	FR POLYNESIA	2.9	4.4	3.6
167	BELIZE	1	2.2	3.5
168	ICELAND	3.9	2	3.2
169	MACEDONIA	2.7	2	3.1
170	COMOROS	5.2	12.5	3.1

171	BERMUDA	2.8	2.9	2.7
172	GRENADA	2.3	1.8	2.5
173	ST LUCIA	3.3	2.7	2.4
174	GUADELOUPE	2.5	2.5	2.2
175	BAHAMAS	2.6	2.7	2.1
176	ANTIGUA	1.5	1.9	2.1
177	MOLDOVA	0.7	1.2	2
178	CAYMAN IS	2.5	2	2
179	C AFRI REP	1	0.5	1.7
180	LIECHTENSTEIN	0.1	1.1	1.5
181	MARTINIQUE	2	1.7	1.5
182	ARMENIA	5.1	2.2	1.4
183	FR GUIANA	1.1	1.7	1.1
184	ERITREA	0.8	0.9	1.1
185	EQU TL GUINEA	2	1.1	0.9
186	ST KITT N A	0.9	1.1	0.9
187	VIRGIN IS US	0	0.6	0.8
188	KYRGHYZSTAN	0.6	1.1	0.7
189	SAMOA	0.5	0.7	0.5
190	TIMOR-LESTE	0.3	0.3	0.5
191	VANUATU REP	0.3	0.4	0.5
192	CAPE VERDE IS	0.4	0.3	0.4
193	NAURU RP	2.5	1.1	0.4
194	KOREA DP RP	8.1	6	0.4
195	DOMINICA	0.3	0.6	0.3
196	SOLOMON IS	0.7	0.3	0.3
197	MARSHALL ISLAND	0	13.9	0.2
198	GIBRALTAR	0.2	0.1	0.2
199	ANDORRA	0.1	0.1	0.2
200	ST VINCENT	0.2	0.1	0.2
201	MAYOTTE	0	0	0.1
202	KIRIBATI REP	0	0.1	0.1
203	NORFOLK IS	0	0	0.1
204	N. MARIANA IS.	0	0	0.1
205	MONACO	0	0	0.1
206	LESOTHO	0.1	0.2	0.1
207	TONGA	0.1	0.3	0.1
208	SAO TOME	0.2	0	0.1
209	GUAM	0	0.1	0
210	MACAO	0.7	0.1	0
211	MONTSERRAT	0.3	0	0
212	US MINOR OUTLYING ISLANDS	0.7	0.2	0
213	TURKS C IS	0.4	0.2	0
214	ANGUILLA	0	0.1	0
215	PITCAIRN IS.	0.1	0	0
216	AMERI SAMOA	0	0.2	0
	Total	65238.8	76199.2	81017.4

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3969
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th MARCH, 2020

EXPORT INCENTIVE CASE AT WTO

3969. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether India has recently lost a case filed by the United States of America (USA) at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) against domestic export incentives and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the impact of this judgement on the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Scheme throughout the country;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to close down the SEZ Scheme in the light of this judgement which refrains India from providing export incentives to all the SEZs;
- (d) the details of the anticipated impact of closing down of SEZ scheme on the Indian economy;
- (e) the details on how the Government is planning to honour its promise to incentivize the concerned industries if the SEZ Scheme is discontinued;
- (f) the details of the anticipated impact of discontinuation of this scheme on the 'Make in India'; and
- (g) the details of all cases filed at the WTO by various countries since 2015 and whether the judgement was made in favour of India?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)
THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

- (a) to (e)** A Dispute Settlement Panel of WTO in its report issued to members on 31 October 2019 has ruled India's export related schemes (including SEZ scheme) to be export contingent and in the nature of prohibited subsidies under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures and thus inconsistent with WTO norms. The Panel has given time-frame of 180 days for withdrawal of SEZ scheme. However, India

has appealed the Panel Report on 19 November, 2019 and due to non-functioning of Appellate Body, the appeal has been kept in suspension. Till the appeal is disposed of, India is under no obligation to implement the recommendations of Panel.

(f and g) Since 2015, ten disputes have been filed against India and the WTO dispute settlement panel has ruled in two cases only and both have gone against India. As a Complainant, India has filed three cases since 2015 out of which only one dispute has been decided by the panel and ruling is in India's favour.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4002
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th MARCH, 2020

INDO-SRI LANKA TRADE

4002. SHRI JUAL ORAM:

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

- (a) the areas where Indo-Sri Lanka trade have been established;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal for the further expansion of Indo-Sri Lanka trade; and
- (c) if so, the details of the programme drawn up in those areas?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)
THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) India Sri Lanka bilateral trade covers numerous products across many areas. For the year 2018-19, principle commodities of India's export to Sri Lanka were petroleum products, ships, boats and floating structures, cotton fabrics and made-ups, two and three wheelers, drug formulations and biologicals, iron and steel products, motor vehicles/cars, sugar, paper, paper board and products, cement, clinkers, asbestos cement etc while major commodities of import from Sri Lanka were ships, boats and floating structures, spices, fresh fruits, paper, paperboard and products, readymade cotton garments including accessories, other textile yarn, fabric made-up articles, copper and copper products, electrical machinery and equipments, other construction machinery, bicycle and its parts etc.

- (b) and (c): The Government continues to engage proactively with Sri Lanka to strengthen trade relations. Bilateral and multilateral trade discussions are held from time to time to explore mechanisms for enhancement of trade. Further, assistance is provided under Market Access Initiative (MAI) to Indian exporters, Export Promotion Councils, apex trade bodies etc, for enhancing exports through participation in events in foreign countries, including Sri Lanka.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4003 (H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th MARCH, 2020

LAND ALLOTMENT TO TEA GARDENERS

4003(H). SHRI NABA KUMAR SARANIA

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

- (a) the details of the criteria on which land has been allotted to various tea gardeners in Assam along with the data on which such allotments were made;
- (b) whether land was given on lease to the British Government;
- (c) if so, the duration for which this land was given on lease and the law under which this agreement was made along with the details thereof;
- (d) whether some parts of the land in the various tea gardens of Assam has been demarcated for the free roaming of wild elephants and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the criterion on which the workers were brought to the tea gardens of Assam in the British regime; and
- (f) the details of the facilities that were assured to be given to them along with the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)
THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): With a view to encourage the growth and expansion of tea industry in Assam, land was offered for cultivation of tea on specially favorable terms under various sets of rules from time to time, namely the Waste Land Grant Rules of 1838; the Old Assam Rules of 1854; the Fee Simple Rules of 1862; the Revised Fee Simple Rules of 1874 and the New Lease Rules of 1876.

(b) & (c): No, Sir. Land was not given on lease to the British Government.

(d): There is no official demarcation of tea garden areas for free roaming of wild elephants. However, wild life migrate or stay for a short duration in some tea garden areas adjoining the Protected Areas and Forests of Assam.

(e) & (f): Gradual expansion of tea plantation in Assam during the British period led to acute shortage of labourers in the new plantations. Accordingly, the British Government facilitated the migration of labourers from what is present day West Bengal, Bihar, UP, Madhya Pradesh, Odhisa etc. The Plantation Labour Act enacted in 1951 and rules made thereunder through Assam Plantation Labour Rules, 1956 assure medical facilities, drinking water, canteens, crèches, education facilities, housing, conservancy, recreation facilities, other facilities (umbrella, blankets, raincoats etc.) to the tea garden workers in Assam.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4035 (H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th MARCH, 2020

CORPORATE LAND HOLDING IN SEZ

4035(H). SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT:

SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE:

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

- (a) the State-wise details of land holding of corporate houses acquired through the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country;
- (b) whether the Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is considering to enter in the low cost housing sector on the land available with it through the SEZs at various locations;
- (c) if so, the details along with the reaction of the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government is considering to give relaxations in the law related to land use; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)
THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (e): Land is a State subject. Land for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) is procured as per the policy and procedures of the respective State Governments. In terms of Rule 11(9) of the SEZ Rules, 2006, sale of land in SEZ is not allowed. As per Rule 5 of the SEZ Rules, 2006, processing area is uniformly fixed at minimum 50% of the total area of all SEZs. The usage of Non-processing area is governed as per provision of Rule 11A of the SEZ Rules, 2006.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4047
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th MARCH, 2020

IMPACT OF IMPROPER PEPPER IMPORTS

4047. SHRI RAHUL GANDHI:

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

- (a) whether the domestic pepper growers have been affected by its improper imports from neighbouring countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the measures being taken by the Government to prevent improper pepper imports, thereby supporting domestic producers?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)
THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b): Several representations were received from State Governments, public representatives, growers' associations etc. regarding improper import of low quality pepper into India from neighbouring countries through Sri Lanka by utilizing the provisions of India Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISLFTA) and Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA). Representations have also been received regarding import of cheap quality pepper from other origins invoiced at higher rates and smuggling of pepper into India through some of the neighbouring countries viz. Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh.

(c) : In order to prevent improper pepper imports and to stabilize the domestic price of pepper, Government had fixed the CIF value of Rs.500/- per kg. as the Minimum Import Price for black pepper vide Notification of Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) dated 6/12/2017. Subsequently, an amendment was brought in the Minimum Import Price (MIP) notification by making import of pepper at or above Rs.500/- per kg. free and import below Rs.500/-per kg. prohibited vide DGFT Notification dated 21/3/2018. The field formation of Customs and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have been alerted and made vigilant at the point of entry in the port to detect and prevent entry of inferior quality pepper from other countries to India. Customs have booked several cases of attempted smuggling of pepper in the recent past.

Further, on the request of the Government of India, Government of Sri Lanka has introduced a new procedure to prevent issue of Certificates of Origin for third-country black pepper shipments destined to India. Government of Sri Lanka has also provided access to Indian authorities to examine the scanned copies of Certificates of Origin issued for black pepper exports under ISLFTA and SAFTA and temporarily

suspended import of spices including pepper to Sri Lanka through the Entreport Trade and Commercial Hub Operations to prevent these spices being reshipped to India. As a result of these actions, the quantum of import of pepper has shown considerable decline in 2019 as compared to the similar period in 2018 & 2017.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4052
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th MARCH, 2020

SHIFTING RUBBER BOARD HEAD OFFICE

4052. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

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

- (a) whether there are apprehensions that the Government is planning to shift the head office of the Rubber Board from Kerala to some other place;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has recently reduced the staff strength of the Rubber Board and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has any statistics regarding the number of regional offices and field offices functioning across the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government has any details on the number of employees shifted from the head office to other offices and if so, the details thereof during the last five years, year-wise?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)
THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b): No, Sir.

(c): In pursuance of direction of the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, decision was taken to restructure the Commodity Boards including Rubber Board, in order to reduce the establishment/operational expenditure and to ensure the smooth and effective functioning of the Boards.

(d) & (e): There are 45 Regional Offices and 152 Field Offices of Rubber Board functioning across the country.

(f): As per norms for Transfer and Postings of officials of Rubber Board, the following number of employees were shifted/transferred from Head Office to other Offices during the last five years:

Year	Transferred from Head Office
2014-15	49

2015-16	64
2016-17	34
2017-18	44
2018-19	39

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4060
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th MARCH, 2020

INSTEX

4060. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government intends to make India a part of the INSTEX (Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges) initiative taken by the European Union (EU) to trade with Iran;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of the measures proposed by the Government to engage with Iran, post sanctions by the United States of America?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)
THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) and (b) : No Sir. This mechanism has not been extended to countries outside the European Union (EU) region so far.

(c) : India maintains diplomatic ties, trade and economic relations and regular people to people exchanges with Iran. High level contacts have been maintained and meetings of various institutional mechanisms, including the Joint Commission at the level of External Affairs Minister, Foreign Office Consultations, Joint Working Group on Trade and Commerce, etc., are held at regular intervals.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4065
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th MARCH, 2020

OPTING OUT OF RCEP

4065. SHRI DIBYENDU ADHIKARI:

SHRIMATI VEENA DEVI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has refused to sign the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement in the interest of domestic industries and agricultural production;
- (b) if so, the details of the various clauses of the RCEP that would have an adverse impact on various sectors of our economy;
- (c) whether the Government has proposed certain conditions on the RCEP agreement so that India is not left out of such a big commercial association of countries in future;
- (d) if so, the details of the conditions thereof and if not, details of the alternative plan by the Government; and
- (e) whether these conditions address domestic concerns?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)
THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (e): During the 3rd RCEP Leaders Summit which was held on 4 November, 2019 in Bangkok, India stated that the current structure of RCEP did not reflect the RCEP Guiding Principles or address the outstanding issues and concerns of India, in the light of which India did not join RCEP in its current form. While RCEP was intended to provide mutually beneficial outcomes for RCEP countries including India, the current structure did not adequately address ambition and concerns of India's stakeholders. India also stated that the Act East Policy was the bedrock of India's economic policy and India's engagement with ASEAN countries and other trading partners would continue.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4094
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th MARCH, 2020

PRESSURE TO OPEN UP DOMESTIC MARKET

4094. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:
SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR

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

- (a) whether the Government is facing constant threat of tariff imposition and pressure from many countries to open up domestic market;
- (b) whether foreign powers are constantly interfering in our internal business matters;
- (c) if so, whether the Government is taking necessary steps to protect the interests of the country; and
- (d) 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 (d): No Sir. The government's trade policy is framed based on its public policy imperatives including safeguarding the interests of its domestic industry. However, during bilateral discussions, the issue of tariffs and non tariff barriers are also raised by trading partners. Some of the measures taken for protecting the trade interests of the country are the recourse to trade remedial measures such as anti-dumping, safeguards and countervailing, monitoring the implementation of trade agreements, formulation of standards and technical regulations for ensuring appropriate quality of imports, integrated development of the logistics sectors and schemes and policies to facilitate trade such as Agriculture Export Policy, Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) and Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA).

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4134 (H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th MARCH, 2020

EXPORTS FROM INDIA

4134(H). SHRI JUGAL KISHORE SHARMA:

SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK:

SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT:

SHRI ADHIKARI DEEPAK (DEV):

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

- (a) whether India is likely to miss its export target in the year 2018-19;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with its impact on the economy, sector-wise;
- (c) the details of the domestic sectors that have been affected the most due to economic recession along with the extent to which the domestic employment opportunities have reduced or are created owing to India's export policy;
- (d) whether the Government has received representations from various Export Promotion Councils for the promotion of such sectors so as to improve their performance and the reaction of the Government thereon; and
- (e) the details of remedial measures taken to address the issue including changing its export policy?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)
THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (c): India's merchandise exports has increased from 303.53 US\$ billion in 2017-18 to 330.07 US\$ billion in 2018-19, registering a positive growth of 8.75%. India's export sector faced many challenges post 2013-14 period due to accentuation of the global economic / financial crisis. However, exports have been growing on a secular 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. The sector-wise values of exports for 2018-19 and percentage change over the previous year 2017-18 are given at **Annexure**. The Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20), launched on 1st April 2015, provides a framework for increasing exports of goods and services as well as generation of employment and increasing value addition in the country, in line with the 'Make in India', 'Digital India', 'Skill India', 'Startup India' and 'Ease of Doing Business' initiatives.

(d): and (e): Representations/suggestions are received from trade organizations/export promotion councils from time to time for promotion of exports which are taken into consideration as part of the regular ongoing process of review and reform of trade policies. To promote export, Government has taken following remedial measures including changes in the export policy:

- (i) The Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20), 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) A Mid-term Review of the FTP 2015-20 was undertaken in December, 2017 under which incentives for labour intensive / MSME sectors were increased by 2% under MEIS.
- (iii) A new Logistics Division was created in the Department of Commerce for integrated development of the logistics sector. India's rank in World Bank's Logistics Performance Index was 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 01.04.2015 providing interest equalisation at 3% for labour intensive / MSME sectors. The rate was increased to 5% for MSME sectors with effect from 02.11.2018 and merchant exporters were covered under the Scheme with effect from 02.01.2019.
- (v) Measures to increase procurement of capital goods from indigenous manufacturers under the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme by reducing specific export obligation from 90 percent to 75 percent of the normal export obligation.
- (vi) Issue of Advance Authorisation to allow duty free import of inputs for export product within a specified timeline.
- (vii) For improving ease of doing business, online issuance of Importer Exporter Codes (IEC) has been started. India's rank in World Bank 'Ease of Doing Business' ranking was improved from 142 in 2014 to 63 in 2019 with the rank in 'trading across borders' moving up from 122 to 80.
- (viii) 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.
- (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.
- (x) 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.
- (xi) A new scheme called "Transport and Marketing Assistance" (TMA) has been launched for mitigating disadvantage of higher cost of transportation for export of specified agriculture products.
- (xii) Government has introduced a new Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) on 13-03-2020 for re-imbursement of taxes/ duties/ levies, which are currently not being refunded under any other mechanism, at the central, state and local level.

Statement referred to in reply of part (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred question no. 4134 for answer on 18th March 2020

India's Merchandise Export, sector-wise for 2017-18 and 2018-19

Source: DGCI&S

		(Value in US\$ Million)		
S. No	QE Groups	2017-18	2018-19	% Change
1	Engineering Goods	78696	83622	6.26
2	Petroleum Products	37465	46554	24.26
3	Gems And Jewellery	41544	40251	-3.11
4	Organic & Inorganic Chemical	18508	22379	20.91
5	Drugs And Pharmaceuticals	17283	19147	10.78
6	Rmg Of All Textiles	16707	16138	-3.40
7	Electronic Goods	6393	8829	38.11
8	Cotton Yarn/ Fabs./Madeups, Handloom Products Etc.	10260	11215	9.31
9	Plastic And Linoleum	6851	8607	25.64
10	Marine Products	7389	6803	-7.94
11	Rice	7806	7751	-0.71
12	Man-Made Yarn/Fabs./Madeups Etc.	4826	4981	3.19
13	Leather And Leather Manufactures	5289	5141	-2.80
14	Mica, Coal And Other Ores, Minerals Including Process	3777	4255	12.65
15	Meat, Dairy And Poultry Products	4610	4364	-5.34
16	Spices	3115	3322	6.65
17	Ceramic Products And Glassware	2132	2649	24.27
18	Iron Ore	1471	1317	-10.45
19	Fruits And Vegetables	2513	2541	1.10
20	Handicrafts Excl. Hand Made Carpet	1823	1838	0.81
21	Cereal Preparations And Miscellaneous Processed Item	1417	1555	9.80
22	Carpet	1430	1482	3.64
23	Oil Seeds	1174	1157	-1.50
24	Tobacco	934	981	5.04
25	Tea	837	831	-0.77
26	Oil Meals	1093	1509	38.01
27	Coffee	969	822	-15.10
28	Cashew	922	654	-29.05
29	Jute Mfg. Including Floor Covering	335	325	-3.03
30	Other Cereals	249	349	40.38
31	Others	15705	18709	19.13
Total Export		303526	330078	8.75
