

Visit of Indian delegation to USA

1968. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any Indian delegation visited United States of America in the month of June, 2009;
- (b) if so, what subjects of mutual interest were discussed with them;
- (c) the agreements reached during the visit and other details in this regard; and
- (d) the assistance expected therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Commerce and Industry Minister led a delegation to the United States of America from June 16 to 20, 2009.

(b) During the visit, the Commerce and Industry Minister met Secretary of State, Commerce Secretary and United States Trade Representative. During the meetings, the Indian delegation discussed with the US side, issues of bilateral interest including the effect of economic downturn on the two economies, way ahead in the Doha Round and the ways and means for increasing bilateral trade and investment.

- (c) No formal agreement was signed in any area.
- (d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c), above.

Export duty on iron-ore to States

1969. SHRI PYRIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the demands from certain States to pass on the export duty on iron-ore collected by the Union Government to the respective States; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Decline in country's exports

1970. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether shrinking world demand has affected India's handicrafts, gems and Jewellery, leather and textile exports severely during the past few months;
- (b) whether India's exports contracted for the eighth successive month plunging 29.2 per cent in May, 2009 at \$11.01 bn. from \$15.55 bn. a year ago;
- (c) whether imports also fell faster than exports declining by 39.3 per cent in May compared with a year ago; and