

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. The Doha Round of negotiations at the World Trade Organisation is still underway; moreover, at present the negotiations are focused only on Agriculture and Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA).

(b) Does not arise.

**Effect of patent & IPR laws on Indian Industries**

1198. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted on effect of strict Patent and IPR laws on innovations and FDI in Indian industries;

(b) if so, what are its findings; and

(c) if not, does the Government propose to have such a study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion has not conducted any study on the effect of strict Patent and IPR laws on innovations and FDI in Indian industries.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present, there is no proposal with the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion to conduct such a study.

**Steps to ensure growth of export**

1199. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Export Import Bank of India (Exim Bank), the country's exports saw a plunge of upto 33 per cent during the last few months;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken/propose to take any concrete steps to ensure growth of exports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) India's exports have recorded significant negative growth upto (-) 33 per cent during the last few months. The details of the fall in India's total exports during the last six months as compared to the corresponding months of the previous year is given below:

*Month-wise exports during 2008-09*

Month	2007-08	2008-09	Growth
	US \$ Million	US \$ Million	(%)
December	14625	12690	-13
January	14889	12381	-17
February	15221	11913	-22
March	17254	11516	-33

*Month-wise exports during 2009-10*

Month	2008-09	2009-10	Growth
	US \$ Million	US \$ Million	(%)
April	16076	10743	-33
May	15550	11010	-29

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata

(c) and (d) Government has taken a number of steps to arrest the downward trend in exports. These measures, *inter-alia*, include interest subvention on pre and post shipment credit for labour intensive exports; additional allocation of funds for export incentive schemes; enhancement of Duty Drawback Benefits on certain items; provision of additional funds for textile sector under the Technology Up-gradation fund (TUF) etc.

**Indo-European Union free trade treaty**

†1200. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- the progress made so far in the direction of Indo-European Union free trade treaty;
- whether Government is satisfied with the progress made so far;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- if not, the new steps that Government is going to take?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Government of India is negotiating a bilateral Broad based Trade and Investment Agreement with European Union (EU).

An India-EU High Level Trade Group (HLTG) between India and EU was established at the 6th India-EU Summit held in New Delhi in September 2005 to explore ways and means to widen and broaden the economic relationship and explore the possibility of a Trade and Investment Agreement. The HLTG submitted its report to the 7th India-EU summit held in Helsinki in October 2006. The

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.