

handicrafts, leather and gems & jewellery. Slowdown in the demand for automobiles and its ancillaries, steel etc. has also been seen.

Industrial groups such as food products, wool, silk & manmade fibre, cotton textiles, wool, silk and man-made fibre textiles, textile products, wood & wood products, leather, basic metal and alloy industries, metal products and parts, machinery and equipment other than transport equipment etc. registered a decline in the month of March, 2009.

Trade deficit due to global recession

444. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's exports and imports are getting hit big due to recession and other reasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the exact reasons therefor;

(c) the details of trade deficit recorded so far;

(d) whether it is also a fact that India's exports will pick up from July onwards and may touch the \$185 billion mark in 2009-10 on the back of diversification to countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia; and

(e) if so, the details thereof available with Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of export, import and trade deficit recorded so far is given below:

(Value in US \$ Billion)

Year	Exports	Growth Rate (%)	Imports	Growth Rate (%)	Trade Deficit (-)/ Surplus (+)
2007-2008	163.0	29.1	251.6	35.5	-88.6
2008-2009 (P)	168.7	3.5	287.8	14.4	-119.1
2009-10 (April-May)	21.8	-31.2	32.0	-38.0	-10.2

(P) - Provisional

DATA SOURCE: DGCI&S, Kolkata

The slow growth of trade during 2008-09 and the negative growth of trade during current year 2009-10 (April-May) is primarily due to economic slowdown in India's major export destinations and slowdown in the domestic demand for industrial inputs and intermediate products.

(d) and (e) The world economy is still going through recession and therefore it is very difficult to forecast timeline for improvement in India's exports.

Scrapping of import duty on crude soyaoil

445. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has scrapped the twenty per cent import duty on crude soyaoil to reduce the prices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has earned the desired results with such decision;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. After harvesting season of soyabean, in March 2009 it has been observed that the soyabean seeds price and domestic soyabean oil had shown an increase of 54.5% and 24% respectively during December 2008 to February 2009. Taking into account these factors the basic customs duty on crude soyabean oil was reduced from 20% to 'nil' w.e.f. 24.03.2009.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The domestic wholesale price of soyabean oil as on 30.06.2009 has declined by 2.97% and 32.54% during last one month and one year respectively.

Incentive package for exporters

†446. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has got a survey conducted on the impact of global recession on the exporters of the country;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the export-import balance is unstable despite being provided with an incentive package and exporters are incurring heavy losses; and
- (c) if so, whether Government would also provide an effective incentive package for the exporters to help them overcome the effect of recession so as to save them from going bankrupt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Detailed survey has not been conducted on the impact of global recession on the exporters of the country. However, a sample survey conducted by Department of Commerce (during August, 08 till April, 09) for 648 exporting units for various sectors located across the country revealed loss of export orders to the extent of Rs. 8982 crores. The merchandise export and import figures for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are shown below.

(Figures in US \$ Billion)

Year	Export	Import	Trade Balance
2007-2008	162.959	251.654	-88.695
2008-2009	163.132	287.759	-124.627

SOURCE: DGCI & S

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi