

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:

- (a) the progress made so far in the direction of Indo-European Union free trade treaty;
- (b) whether Government is satisfied with the progress made so far;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) 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.

Summit decided that the two sides should enter into negotiations for a Broad based Trade and Investment Agreement covering areas of Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investment, Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Trade Remedies, Customs Cooperation & Trade Facilitation, Dispute Settlement, Competition and Intellectual Property Rights. Negotiations commenced in June 2007 covering all these areas. So far, six rounds of negotiations between India and European Union have been held. Legal text of the proposed agreement in all these areas have been exchanged and are being discussed. Tariff liberalisation offers have also been exchanged on Trade in goods. Negotiations are still in the initial stages.

(d) Question does not arise.

Impact of global economic meltdown on export of India tea

1201. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian tea exports have suffered a great deal due to global economic meltdown this year;
- (b) if so, the comparative figures of tea exports during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09; and
- (c) whether the Indian tea industry has demanded for any concessions on incentives to boost tea exports, if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) There is no major adverse impact on tea exports during 2008-09 due to the global economic melt down.

(b) The details of tea exported from India during last three years are as under:-

Export of Tea from India

Year	All India		
	Qty (Million Kgs)	Value (Rs. Crs.)	Unit Price (Rs.)
2006-07	218.15	2045.72	93.77
2007-08	185.32	1888.68	101.91
2008-09(E)	183.99	2274.74	123.64

(E) Estimated & subject to revision

(c) Tea Industry has demanded the continuation of all general schemes incentivising exports, inclusion of tea in the Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana (VKGUY) scheme, continuation of the incentive for Orthodox tea production and development of export infrastructure etc.

The Government of India has responded by announcing several measures viz. incentive schemes for boosting exports including tea, inclusion of green tea in the Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog