

National paper policy

1961. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

- (a) the paper policy of Government;
- (b) whether it is a fact that in the wake of fall in the international prices of paper indigenous companies have increased the prices of paper thus pushing the printing units to the verge of closure;
- (c) whether Government propose to take any steps keeping in view the difficulties being faced by the publishers because of this arbitrary-increase in the prices of paper;
- (d) whether as a result of closure of printing units the students will not be forced to buy books printed in foreign countries due to unavailability of syllabus books and this will render a large number of workers working in printing units jobless; and
- (e) whether Government proposes to allow the import of cheap paper from foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The paper industry, which includes pulp, paper and paper-board and newsprint has been delicensed under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 with effect from 17th July, 1997. The entrepreneurs are required only to file an Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (IEM) with the Secretariat of Industrial Assistance (SIA) for setting up of a new paper unit or substantial expansion of the existing unit in permissible locations. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 100% is allowed on automatic route on all activities except those requiring industrial licence.

(b) to (d) The domestic prices of the main varieties of writing and printing paper have shown a declining trend from August, 2008 to April, 2009. (Source: CMIE).

(e) The writing and printing paper is under OGL and does not have any quantitative restrictions. The volume of import is determined by the market forces of demand and supply.

Joint panel on trade related issues between India and China

1962. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

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

- (a) whether India and China have set up a joint official panel to sort out trade related issues;
- (b) if so, the composition of Members of panel and whether the panel has since discussed the trade related disputes;

¶ Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of trade related issues with China under consultation and the manner in which those issues are likely to be sorted out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (c) India and China have a number of mechanisms such as Joint Group on Economic Relations, Trade, Science and Technology (JEG) at Ministerial level and Joint Working Group at Joint Secretary level to discuss issues of mutual concern including Trade disputes, if any, in our Economic and Commercial relations. In October 2008, the Department of Commerce of Republic of India and Bureau of Fair trade of the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China have set up a technical level Expert Group on trade remedies to promote mutual cooperation. The purpose of this mechanism is to have an exchange of views and to better understand several aspect of trade remedy measures such as legal framework, investigation procedure etc.

(d) Growing Trade deficit, market access of Indian Agricultural products, trade remedial action taken by India and Market Economy Status are the main issues with China. These issues are to be sorted out through mutual consultations.

Decrease in export of tea, coffee and spices

1963. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) whether there has been significant decrease in the export of tea, coffee and spices during 2007-08;

(b) the countries to which tea, coffee and spices are exported from India;

(c) whether Government has found out the reasons for this significant decrease in exports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) While the export of tea and coffee has declined during the year 2007-08 as compared to the previous year, the export of spices has increased substantially.

(b) Following are the major countries to which these items are exported:

Item	Countries
Tea	Russian Federation, UAE, United Kingdom, Iran, Kazakhstan, USA, ARE
Coffee	Italy, Russian Federation, Germany, Belgium, Spain, Finland
Spices	USA, European Union, Malaysia, UAE, China, Sri Lanka, Singapore

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