

(a) whether it is a fact that a bilateral meeting was held recently between United States trade representative Mr. Ror Krik and Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma to promote trade between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details of the issues taken up during the meeting;

(c) whether it has been agreed that the trading of agricultural and industrial products between both the countries would be encouraged; 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) Sixth Ministerial meeting of the India-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF) was held at New Delhi on 26th October, 2009. The meeting was co-chaired by Hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Anand Sharma on the Indian side and United States Trade Representative Ambassador Ronald Kirk on the United States. During the meeting the two Governments decided to continue their bilateral trade policy dialogue under the five Focus Groups: Agriculture, Innovation and Creativity, Investment, Services and Tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers. The two Governments agreed to work together on a framework for promoting cooperation in trade and investment.

(c) and (d) The need for greater market access in each other's markets for products from both countries, including agricultural and industrial products, was discussed by both sides.

Trade imbalance between India and China

¶596. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the foreign trade between India and China has reached to 41.60 billion dollar;

(b) if not, the maximum amount of annual trade done so far;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this trade *i.e.* export from China to India and *vice-versa* is highly imbalanced;

(d) if so, the details of the value of export done by both the countries during the year 2008-09; and

(e) whether Government has taken any steps to balance such imbalance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The bilateral trade between India and China during the year 2008-09 has reached to USD 40.60 billion.

(c) Yes, Sir.

¶Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) During the year 2008-09 the value of Indian exports to China was USD 9.275 billion and the value of Chinese exports to India was USD 31.333 billion.

(e) Government of India is pursuing with Chinese side for greater market access as well as undertaking trade promotion activities for our products such as agricultural products, basmati rice, pharmaceuticals etc. Indian companies have also participated in trade fairs in China to enhance export of Indian products.

Export of non-Basmati rice

597. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

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

(a) whether Government has given orders to export non-Basmati rice between January, 2008 and May, 2009 to countries such as Sierra Leone, Comoros, Mauritius, etc.;

(b) if so, the details of the procedure followed for export of rice;

(c) whether it is a fact that private exporters has been given orders for export on non-Basmati rice over MMTC, STC and other PSUs;

(d) whether above exports made as commercial transactions or under food aid programme to above countries; and

(e) the criterion adopted in fixing the price of rice at US \$640 per MT and only US \$10 as margin to MMTC?

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

(b) MMTC, STC and PEC followed the procedures as given in Statement (See below).

(c) No Sir.

(d) The above exports were made as commercial transactions.

(e) Since it was a commercial transaction, price was negotiated by Governments of Comoros and Mauritius and MMTC's margin was negotiated by MMTC.

Statement

Procedures followed by the PSUs for Export of Non-Basmati Rice

MMTC

- Receipt of Government notification for supply of non-basmati rice to Comoros and Mauritius.
- Inviting Expression of Interest for supply of rice by advertisement published in national dailies and also put up on MMTC website.