

- (a) whether Free Trade Agreement have been signed with the ASEAN countries;
- (b) if so, salient features of the agreement thereto;
- (c) whether common agricultural produces are excluded in the list of imports under the agreement;
- (d) if so, the details of such produces; and
- (e) if not, the details of the measures taken by Government to protect the indigenous produces and the interest of the farmers?

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

(b) India and ASEAN have signed the Trade in Goods Agreement on 13th August, 2009 which is envisaged to come into force with effect from 1st January, 2010. The Agreement provides for exchange of tariff concessions by India and ASEAN Countries during 01.01.2010 and 31.12.2004.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Majority of the agricultural products are protected under the Agreement by placing them in the Exclusion (Negative) List where no tariff concessions are available of ASEAN countries. A complete list of India's offer is available at [http://commerce.gov.in/trade/international\\_ta\\_indasean.asp](http://commerce.gov.in/trade/international_ta_indasean.asp)

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Keeping production of Darjeeling tea profitable**

¶611. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the details of steps proposed to be taken to keep the production of Darjeeling tea profitable and viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): The quality, reputation and characteristics of Darjeeling tea are essentially attributable to its geographical origin, It possesses a flavour and quality which sets it apart from other teas. Pioneering work has been done to protect Darjeeling tea as a geographical indication aimed at preventing non-Darjeeling tea from being passed off as Darjeeling tea. The DARJEELING word and logo were the first Geographical Indications to be registered in India under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. Over Rs.60 lakhs are spent per annum on the legal requirements to protect Darjeeling word and logo globally,

Government is promoting Darjeeling Tea thorough Tea Board by supporting its promotional campaigns, Buyer Seller Meets, Tea Tasting Sessions, Trade Fairs and International Conventions, Darjeeling Tea has also been promoted in domestic markets. Tea Board spends a substantial amount of its Market Promotion Scheme budget on promotion of Darjeeling Tea both within the country and outside. Apart from extending

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¶Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

financial assistance under regular plan schemes of the Tea Board for field and factory modernization, the Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs.5.68 crore in the Eleventh Plan to upgrade the Darjeeling Tea Research and Development Centre as a Centre of Excellence.

**Boosting measures to the development of retail market**

612. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the 39th most preferred retail market in the world up from 44th position last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the incentive and boosting measures being given to the retail market development in the country and to place India in the No. 1 position in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) M/s CB Richard Ellis, a global real estate services company, in its Special Report 2009 Edition titled 'How Global in the Business of Retail', has ranked Indian as 39th among the countries which attract the most international retailers. The ranking has been done on the basis of percentage calculation of all possible overseas retailers (excluding the domicile retailers).

(c) The Reserve Bank of India has issued revised guidelines on lending to priority sector on April 30, 2007. According to these guidelines, retail trade lending includes advances granted to retail traders dealing in essential commodities (fair price shops), consumer cooperative stores and advances granted to private retail traders with credit limits not exceeding Rs.20.00 lakh. The target of total priority sector advances for domestic commercial banks was set at 40% of adjusted net bank credit (ANBC) or credit equivalent amount of off-balance sheet exposure, whichever is higher, while for foreign banks it was set at 32%.

**Protecting Indian market from foreign goods**

613. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign super market chains will break the Indian market;

(b) if so, the comments of the Government thereon; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect the Indian market from foreign goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) As per extant policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is not permitted in retail trade except in "Single Brand" product retailing, where FDI upto 51% is permitted, with prior Government approval and subject to the following conditions:-