

[16 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) Total value of exports from non-IT SEZs during 2006-07 were Rs. 32,107.01 crores.

(d) No specific annual targets for exports from SEZs are fixed. However, growth of exports from SEZs during 2006-07 was 52% as compared to 2005-06.

(e) Projected exports from the SEZs during 2007-08 are Rs.67,300 crores.

Safeguarding the Interests of Indian farmers in ASEAN

*587. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) had attended to the sensitivities of India during the negotiations held during January, 2007 in Philippines, for the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA);

(b) if so, whether India's objective of forging a consensus with the ASEAN on the contentious issues of the negative list of items that we did not want to be considered, was adequately achieved; and

(c) whether the interests of Indian farmers and sections of the domestic industry have been safeguarded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM)-India Consultations Meeting was held at Cebu, Philippines on January 11, 2007, during which both ASEAN and India agreed to maintain a Negative List to cover their respective sensitivities. It was further agreed that the Negative List by India and each ASEAN Member country would be subject to a maximum number of 490 tariff lines and an import value cap of 5%. Even though ASEAN were initially disinclined to accept India's proposed for a Negative List, India was able to persuade ASEAN to provide for mutually agreed sensitivities through a Negative List.

(c) India's proposed Negative List adequately safeguards the interests of farmers and sensitive sectors of the domestic industry. The Negative List consists of items mostly of Agricultural products, Textiles, Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Automobiles etc. The negative list has been made in consultation with various Ministries and other stakeholders.