

including the US and the EU (presently it has been proposed at 8) to meet the mandate of Less Than Full Reciprocity (LTFR) in reduction commitments. There are contentious issues as regards a number of proposals relating to elimination of non-tariff barriers in NAMA also.

(c) In the WTO Services negotiations, developed countries have requested for commitments beyond the autonomous regime prevalent in India and other developing countries for sectors of commercial importance to them. Developing countries including India are of the view that they have offered substantial improvements in their services commitments during the present Round while developed countries have not shown any visible improvement in sectors of export interest to developing countries such as Mode 4 (Movement of Natural Persons). India and other developing countries have, inter-alia, requested the developed countries for: broad based commitments across various categories of professionals; removal of various restrictions under Mode 4 such as the Economic Needs Test, Residency and Citizenship requirements; fully committing a wide array of services under Modes 1 and 2 (Cross Border Supply); and for disciplining Domestic Regulations.

Trade pact with Finland

4333. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any trade pact between India and Finland on setting up of joint working groups in the area of innovation, clean technology, waste management, skill development and training has been signed, recently;

(b) whether the two countries would also set up a joint mission to identify new business possibilities and remove hurdles that could hamper mutual economic cooperation between the two countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) An umbrella Agreement on Economic Cooperation between India and Finland has been signed at Helsinki, Finland on 26th March 2010 by the Government of India and the Government of Finland.

The Agreement envisages setting up a Joint Commission consisting of experts, to identify new business possibilities for furthering mutual economic cooperation, discussing problems hindering development of trade and making recommendations for implementation.

The Agreement also envisages that within the framework of the Joint Commission, Joint Working Groups may be established. It was agreed by both sides to set up three Joint Working Groups in the areas of (i) Innovation, (ii) Clean Technology & Waste Management and (iii) Skill Development & Training, to develop and intensify economic cooperation.

Boosting export of tea and earnings

4334. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of tea export during the year 2009-10, particularly between April, 2009 to December, 2009;
- (b) whether Government is aware that in spite of good export of tea, the earnings are likely to be lower;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the countries identified for the export of tea and the success achieved thereof; and
- (e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to boost the export of tea and earnings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The export of tea from India during the year 2009-10 (up to February, 2010) is 182.28 million kilograms and during April to December, 2009 is 153.03 million kilograms.

(b) No, Sir. There is a substantial increase in export of tea both in quantity and value terms during the year 2009-10 (up to February, 2010) as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Tea is largely being exported to Russia, Kazakhstan, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, etc. Exporters are encouraged to export larger quantities of high value tea to different countries.

(e) Government of India through the Tea Board is taking various steps to boost the export of tea and earnings therefrom. These include conducting promotional activities in the foreign markets and lending promotional support to the Indian Tea exporters in their marketing efforts abroad.