

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

EU's traditional herbal medicine product directive

4305. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent European Union's traditional herbal medicine product directive (THMPD) would practically make it impossible for most ayurvedic drugs from India to be marketed in EU member countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the move has damaging economic implication on India as many Indian companies market their products in European countries and with 15,000 plant species in global market for herbal medicine;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has decided to move WTO against EU's herbal drug order; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADIYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) The European Commission's Traditional Herbal Medicine Products Directive requires that the exporters of traditional herbal products to EU show 30 years of traditional use including 15 years of traditional use in the EU in order to establish efficacy of the products. The exporters apprehend that it would be difficult to comply with this requirement and this may result in complete denial of market access for such products into EU from 1-4-11 when the directive comes into force.

(e) to (f) The Government has taken a serious note of this directive and taken the issue at bilateral level with European Union conveying them our serious concerns on the implications of this directive in the background of strong potential for exports of Indian traditional medicine. The Government has been pursuing the matter both at the level of bilateral discussion as well as on the sides of TBT Committee in the WTO.

Export of pulses from SEZs

†4306. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

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

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has formulated a proposal for taking a policy decision to allow units of special economic zones set up in the country to export pulses;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the reasons behind consideration of sanctioning of export of pulses from these units; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a gap of more than 20 lakh tonnes in demand and supply of pulses during each year from 2007-08 to 2009-10?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Two proposals regarding export of pulses from SEZs were considered by the Board of Approval (BOA) in its meeting held on 9th April 2010. BOA decided as under:

"The Board noted that these are very sensitive products and there is requirement of clear policy for import and export of these products. Pending the availability of such policy, the Board decided to defer the requests for import, processing, trading and export of pulses."

Impact of Dubai debt crisis on Indian exports

4307. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an apprehension of negative impact of the Dubai debt crises on Indian export and economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government is going to take to save Indian export and economy from the impact of Dubai debt crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) No, Sir, there is no noticeable negative impact of the Dubai debt crisis on Indian export and economy. Dubai World, the flagship holding economy of the Dubai Government with active participation in some large real estate projects, sought a debt restructuring and six-month standstill in its debt repayment (estimated in US\$ 59 billion as of August 2009) on November 25, 2009. Although there was initial reaction in the domestic foreign currency and Indian stock markets, the impact was insignificant and short-lived. The primary capital market remained unaffected and there was no visible effect of the Dubai news on the money and government