

As per UN comtrade data for 2008, India's share in international trade works out to 0.75% in value terms.

(c) The Government has taken several steps to boost export of fruits like mangoes and grapes etc. The Government through Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) extends financial assistance to exporters of fruits and vegetables under its scheme for Market Development, Infrastructure Development, Quality Development, Research & Development, Research & Development and Transport Assistance. The Government/APEDA encourages exporters to participate in the various international trade fairs and organises mango promotion programmes in various countries and has also developed Sea protocol for encouraging exports.

(d) The Government does not fix any specific targets for exports of fruits.

(e) The Government under its Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) has set various focus products to diversify and improve their export to the focused overseas markets. Apart from this, the Government also extends financial assistance under the schemes of Market Access Initiative and Market Development Assistance.

The Government takes up issues relating to Market Access for our horticulture products from time to time with various importing countries.

Level of self-reliance in Defence R & D

1827. SHRI D. RAJA :

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our current level of self-reliance in Defence R & D is less than our capabilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what measures are proposed to be taken to improve our Defence R & D level;

(c) whether Government proposes to promote public-private partnership in the defence sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) and (b) Presently, large percentage of military equipment is being imported. Achieving the goal of self-reliance in Defence production is a

joint effort of Ministry of Defence (MoD), Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), Ordnance Factories (OFs), Private Industries and DRDO. Steps have been taken to enhance level of self-reliance in Defence production. The following measures have been taken to improve self-reliance Defence:-

(i) Top down approach to initiate R&D within Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), with academic institutions, other scientific bodies and with foreign collaborations.

(ii) Bottom up futuristic R&D through domestic and international collaborative research.

(iii) Close working with the three Services to forest and develop systems indigenously through "MAKE" by DRDO and "MAKE" by Industry.

(iv) Joint development of major system through international collaborations.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Defence sector has been opened for 100% private sector participation and Indian private industries are now participating in the development and production of defence equipment.

Withdrawal of Army from J & K

†1828. SHRI PRABHAT JHA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently taken any decision under which army deployed in Jammu and Kashmir is to be withdrawn;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received information that terrorist organizations are hatching conspiracy for withdrawal of army from the State by building pressure on the State Government indirectly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (d) The deployment of troops in Jammu & Kashmir is continuously reviewed by the Army based on the changing threat perception. Reinforcement of the troops is done on the basis of the overall security situation.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.