

1	2	3	4	5
2008-09	15,56,409	9,47,703	9,31,885	1,68,737
2009-10	20,15,912	10,83,886	1,39,371	41,476

(Source: DGCIS)

(b) and (c) A negligible amount of rice has been imported from other countries. The details regarding import of rice are as under:—

(Quantity in tonnes, value in Rs. lakh)

Year	Quantity	Value	Unit price (Rs. per tonne)
2007-08	146	42	28,767
2008-09	85	54	63,529
2009-10	63	36	57,143

(Source: DGCIS)

#### Financial package to farmers

2347. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite adoption of liberalized policy since the last two decades, Government still needs to provide financial packages to the exporters to promote trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether the country is suffering huge losses in foreign trade despite financial packages to the exporters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Export performance is dependent on a host of factors such as demand and supply condition (both domestic and international), Import intensity of the product, global prices and price elasticity, exchange rate etc. Government extends support to export sector in the form of schemes for neutralization of duties on inputs required to manufacture the export product, import of capital goods at concessional duty for technological upgradation and measures for procedural simplification and rationalization. In addition, Government has sought to provide support/incentives to the different export sectors, in particular, the labour intensive sectors, which are affected not only by the global situation but also the incentives being extended by our competing countries to their exporters. Various

measures taken include export incentives under Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana (VKGUY), Focus Market Scheme (FMS), Focus Product Scheme (FPS), Market Linked Focus Product Scheme (MLFPS) for market expansion and product diversification, concessional export credit, interest subvention for specified sectors. These measures are reviewed and rationalized from time to time.

(c) and (d) There had been significant growth in our exports in last few years. During the period 2003-08, our merchandise exports witnessed robust growth to reach a level of over US \$ 185 billion in 2008-09 from US \$ 63 billion in 2003-04. Growth in exports continued till September, 2008. It suffered a decline during the 12 months (October, 08 to September, 09) due to the shrinkage of the demand worldwide and particularly the contraction in demand in the traditional markets of our exports. This downward trend was arrested from October, 2009 onwards and our exports ended up with an export figure of US \$ 178.75 billion in 2009-10. Arrest in decline of exports and its movement to positive trajectory since October, 2009 clearly indicates that while the impact of global economic slowdown is still continuing on our exports, the supports/incentives have significantly contributed in the export growth.

#### **Bilateral meeting with Russian Trade and Industry Minister**

2348. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a bilateral meeting with Russian Trade and Industry Minister was held in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed during the said meeting;

(c) the details of the decisions taken by both the countries during the said meeting;

(d) the details of the trade between the two countries during 2009-10 as compared to previous year; and

(e) the extent to which the trade between both the countries will be increased after the said bilateral meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Bilateral Meeting with Russian Trade and Industry Minister was held recently on 29.9.2010.

(b) and (c) The above visit of Russian Trade and Industry Minister was specifically for Indo-Russian cooperation in pharmaceutical sector. Measures for increasing the trade were broadly discussed. Participation in infrastructure development in India, matters relating to energy and hydrocarbon sectors and supply of rough diamonds to companies under Department of Commerce were also deliberated upon.