

(a) whether it is a fact that the members of the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) are expressing indignation at Government's decision to open up the retail sector for Multinational companies because it would adversely affect their production and employment opportunities;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to take consensus-based decision after considering problems of Confederation of All India Traders; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion had released a Discussion Paper on the subject of 'Foreign Direct Investment in Multi-Brand Retail Trading', with the aim of generating informed discussion on the subject and obtaining the views and comments of various stakeholders. Views and suggestions on the discussion paper were received from a number of stakeholders, including the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT). CAIT has opposed FDI in multi-brand retail trading, mentioning its possible adverse impact on employment and retail trade.

(b) and (c) All the views/suggestions received in response to this Discussion Paper will be carefully considered by the Government before taking an appropriate decision.

Threat to chemical exports by EU's legislation

168. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union's legislation popularly called REACH-Registration Evaluation Authorisation and Restriction of Chemical Substances, threatens 24 per cent of India's chemical exports by pushing up the cost per exporter per chemical by Rs.50-60 lakhs according to a data collected by the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is examining the possibility of challenging the EU's legislation at the WTO since it violates two basic principles of WTO i.e. most favoured nation and technical barriers to trade; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the cost per exporter per chemical varies widely from Rs. 3.25 lakhs to Rs.80.00 lakhs, depending upon the hazardous nature of chemical, the volume of chemical, the number of registrants for the said chemical and the status of the exporter.

Initially, there was an apprehension in the industry that REACH might adversely impact exports of India. Government of India has provided support to the industry including financial assistance for creating awareness on the various provisions of REACH, facilitation for pre-registration through export Promotion Councils. Concerns of Indian industry on REACH have also been apprised to concerned authorities in European Commission.

(c) and (d) India has been doing bilateral consultation with the European Union on the REACH regulation and has also raised its concerns on this issue in the Technical Barrier to Trade Committee (TBT) of the World Trade Organisation(WTO) This is a normal procedure that precedes challenging any measures in the WTO.

Financial aid to boost fish exports from Goa

169. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum and value of fresh and dry fish exported from Goa during the last five years;

(b) whether Central Government has given any financial or infrastructure assistance to the State Government to boost fish exports from Goa; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) There was no export of dried fish from Goa Port during the period 2005-06 to 2009-10. During the same period i.e. between 2005-06 to 2009-10, 900 kgs of fresh fish valued at Rs. 1,54,000 was exported only during 2007-08 from Goa port.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.