

(b) Based on the recommendations of the High Level Trade Group, at the 7th India-EU Summit in October, 2007 in Helsinki, negotiations for a BTIA were launched in Brussels on 28-29 June, 2007. This aimed at identifying opportunities for enhancing trade and investment in both directions.

(c) and (d) The negotiations are ongoing. Requests have been made on a variety of sectors including automobiles. Positions taken evolve from stakeholders consultations and domestic sensitivities.

Strategy to double exports

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

(a) whether India's exports have grown in the second quarter (April-June, 2011) in line with 37.5 per cent growth during 2010-11;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a strategy to double country's exports by 2013-14 has been released by Government; 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) India's merchandise exports increased by 37.55% in US \$ terms in 2010-11. As per the latest available data from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, India's merchandise exports during 2010-11 (April-June) were US \$ 54221.16 million and increased to US \$ 79003.74 million in 2011-12 (April-June), thus registering a growth of 45.71%. In Rupee terms, merchandise exports have increased by 42.72% during 2011-12 (April-June) over the same period last year.

(c) and (d) The Department of Commerce has prepared a Strategy Paper for doubling India's merchandise exports over the period 2011-12 to 2013-14 from US \$ 246 billion in 2010-11 to US \$ 500 billion in 2013-14. The paper is available on the Department's website (www.commerce.nic.in).

Change in export policy to effect price change of onion

†316. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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 despite normal production of onion in the country its prices are impacted by international market prices;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government has to change its export policy to effect increase or decrease in onion prices in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Sir, the country produces sufficient quantity[†] of onions to fulfil its domestic requirements and therefore, international market prices do not have any significant impact on the domestic prices of onions.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Prices of onion depend on the domestic demand and supply situation as well as the export policy. Whenever, there is scarcity or short supply of onion, in the domestic market, Government, prohibits or restricts export by suitably modifying the minimum export price (MEP) of onion and lays down other conditions, if necessary, to ensure availability of onion to consumers at reasonable prices.

Syncing industrial production with export growth

†317. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the industrial production growth rate and export growth rate are not in sync with each other in the country;

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

(c) the details of annual industrial production growth rate and annual growth rate of export in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The export and industrial production have recorded varying rates of growth in the last three years.

[†]Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.