

(a) whether a comprehensive India- ASEAN Economic Partnership Agreement will be signed by the end of this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the potential gains to Indian industry regarding the same; and

(d) the impact of the same on the services sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) India has signed Agreement on Trade on Goods with ASEAN on 13th August, 2009 and negotiations on Agreement on Trade in Services and Agreement on Investment are ongoing between India and ASEAN.

(c) The potential gain for Indian Industry from the Agreement would be growth in bilateral trade and investment resulting in economic welfare gains to India. Indian exporters would also gain additional market access into the ASEAN countries. Indian manufacturers would be able to source raw materials and intermediate products at competitive prices from the ASEAN markets.

(d) Negotiations on Agreement on Trade in Services with ASEAN countries are underway and the Agreement would promote greater trade and investment flows between India and ASEAN and would contribute to economic development of the region.

Indo-EU FTA

314. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government is close to signing the Indo-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA);

(b) whether Government has assessed the potential gains and losses;

(c) whether Government has agreed to make allowance for automobile imports from the EU; and

(d) if so, has the impact on domestic automobile industry been analysed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The Government of India is negotiating a bilateral Broad based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) with the European Union (EU). Negotiations are at an advanced stage.

(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.