

the trade basket with emphasis on manufactured goods. The issue of trade deficit was raised by the Indian side during the 8th session of India-China Joint Group on Economic Relations, Trade Science and Technology (JEG) held on 19th January, 2010. As an outcome of JEG a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between India and China, where the Chinese side assured the Indian side that it would increase its imports from India. Indian Companies are encouraged to participate in major trade fairs in China to show-case Indian products in the Chinese market and increase engagement with Chinese companies.

Export of 10 lakh bales of cotton

320. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to allow additional 10 lakh bales of cotton for exports this year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the textile mills have opposed this move; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) After review of production and consumption of cotton in the country, the informal Group of Ministers under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister in its meeting held on 08.06.2011 has permitted additional 10 lakh bales of cotton in the current cotton year (01.10.2010 to 30.09.2011). Directorate General of Foreign Trade has notified this decision of informal Group of Ministers through Notification No. 57(RE-2010)/2009-14 dated 09.06.2011.

(c) Government has received several representations from the individual Industries as well as Associations in the Textile Sector not to permit further export of cotton. Representations have also been received to liberalise export of cotton and remove all caps to make it completely free.

(d) The Group of Ministers took into account the production, domestic consumption of

cotton and other relevant factors like price situation in the country/international market and the interests of various stake holders like farmers, ginners, manufacturers of yarn & garments and exporters and took decision accordingly so as to balance the interests of all the stake holders. This is why, the Government has decided to allow only additional 10 lakh bales of cotton for the current cotton year ending 30.09.2011.

Formalisation of CECA with Russia

321. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia expressed a desire to move towards formalizing a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) in an attempt to expand trade and investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the MoUs signed so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the visit of Russian President to India in December, 2010 a Joint Statement was issued wherein both side agreed to consider the possibility of Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) taking into account of agreement on consulting Customs Union between Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus after due consultation with all parties involved.

(c) No MoUs have been signed so far.

Helping industry to acquire land

322. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is helping industry to acquire land for various purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise especially for Andhra Pradesh in the Eleventh Five Year Plan for Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and other purposes also; and

(c) the present position of such land acquired so far especially in Andhra Pradesh?