

Trade, *inter-alia*, advises the Government on policy measures connected with the Foreign Trade Policy in order to achieve the objectives of boosting India's exports. The Board is chaired by Commerce and Industry Minister. As per present constitution, the Board of Trade has 17 Non Official Members, 15 Ex-Officio Members and 14 Official Members. The last meeting of Board of Trade was held on 11.10.2011. Inputs received in the meeting were taken into consideration in the announcements made by Commerce and Industry Minister on 13.10.2011 on policy initiatives to further encourage foreign trade.

Special bonus benefit scheme for emerging export sectors

2328. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced a special bonus benefit scheme to provide assistance to emerging exports sectors including engineering, chemicals and pharmaceuticals for the next six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is providing this special incentive to exporters to capture new markets as the competition is very high in these sectors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government has announced a Special Bonus Benefit Scheme to provide duty credit scrip @ 1% of FOB value of exports to 49 products in Engineering, Pharmaceutical and Chemical sectors for six months from 1.10.2011 till 31.3.2012. This scheme alongwith the newly introduced Special Focus Market Scheme will help Indian exporters to compete globally with other countries in exploring new markets.

Streamlining of exports of food items

†2329. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a demand is being made at international level that countries should streamline food export instead of imposing ban on food export or increase the taxes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and names of the countries making such demand; and

(c) the reaction of Government with regard to such demand?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) At their Summit held in Cannes, France on 3-4 November, 2011, the G20 group of countries, including India, agreed, *inter alia*, to remove food export restrictions or extraordinary taxes for food purchased for non-commercial humanitarian purposes by the World Food Programme and agreed not to impose them in the future. They also encouraged the adoption of a Declaration by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for the Ministerial Conference in December, 2011.

(c) In the WTO, India has taken the stand that the policy space available under the relevant WTO agreements that allows countries to take care of their domestic concerns, must not be curtailed in any manner.

Exports *vis-a-vis* imports

2330. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the value of imports in the country is greater than the exports;

(b) if so, the difference between the value of imports and exports in foreign trade during April to October of the current fiscal;

(c) the countries from where import is more as compared to export from India; and

(d) the countries to whom export is more as compared to import to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The difference between the value of imports and exports during April to October, 2011 is Rs.431269 Crore (Provisional).

(c) and (d) The county-wise imports and exports are given in the DGCI&S publication in CD form namely 'Principal Commodities and Countries' (latest available for the month of July, 2011). Such publication is regularly sent on monthly basis to Parliament Library by DGCI&S.

Strategy paper for doubling India's merchandise exports

2331. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Commerce has prepared a strategy paper from doubling India's merchandise exports;