

#### **Bilateral trade with Pakistan**

174. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the present status of bilateral trade between India and Pakistan;
- (b) whether both the countries have recently agreed to double the bilateral trade; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The present status of bilateral trade between India and Pakistan during the last 3 years is as follows:—

(Values in US \$ millions)

Year	Export	Import	Total trade	India's trade surplus
2008-09	1439.88	370.17	1810.05	1,069.71
2009-10	1573.32	275.94	1849.26	1,297.38
2010-11	2333.62	332.51	2666.13	2,001.11

- (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the meeting of the Commerce Ministers of India and Pakistan held on 28.09.2011, it was agreed to jointly work to more than double bilateral trade within three years, from current levels of 2.7 billion US dollars per annum to about 6 billion dollars.

#### **Export of rice**

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

- (a) whether Government procures rice through Food Corporation of India (FCI) for exporting it to other countries;
- (b) the State-wise details of the total rice procured; and
- (c) the details of rice exported, quantum-wise during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Sir, the Government procures food grains including rice through Food Corporation of India primarily for the public distribution system. However, limited quantities from the Central Pool are allowed for exports to other countries on diplomatic considerations.

(b) The State-wise details of the rice procured by FCI is given in Statement (See below).

(c) No rice has been exported from the FCI stocks during the last three years.

**Statement**

*Rice procurement for Central Pool for last three years  
(Marketing Season-wise)*

Sl. No.	State/UTs	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11*	2011-12*
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	90.58	75.55	96.10	1.66
2.	Assam	0.03	0.08	0.16	0.00
3.	Bihar	10.83	8.90	8.83	0.00
4.	Chandigarh	0.10	0.14	0.10	0.13
5.	Chhattisgarh	28.48	33.57	37.42	1.27
6.	Delhi	—	—	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	—	—	0.00	0.00
3.	Haryana	14.25	18.19	36.87	19.36
9.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	0.01	0.00
10.	Jharkhand	1.43	0.23	0.00	0.00
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.07	—	0.11	0.00
12.	Karnataka	1.07	0.86	1.80	0.00
13.	Kerala	2.37	2.61	2.63	0.82
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2.47	2.55	5.02	0.01
15.	Maharashtra	2.61	2.29	3.08	0.06
16.	Nagaland	—	—	0.00	0.00
17.	Orissa	28.01	24.96	24.65	0.00
18.	Pondicherry	0.07	0.08	0.40	0.00
19.	Punjab	85.54	92.75	86.35	76.33
20.	Rajasthan	0.11	—	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
21.	Tamil Nadu	12.01	12.41	15.43	2.48
22.	Uttar Pradesh	40.07	29.01	25.54	1.80
23.	Uttaranchal	3.49	3.75	4.22	0.16
24.	West Bengal	17.43	12.40	13.10	0.15
TOTAL :		341.02	320.34	341.81	104.23

*Note:* The above figures of rice procurement also includes the rice equivalent of unmilled paddy.

*Neg.* — Less than 500 tonnes.

\*Position as on 21.11.2011.

#### **Import of craft paper at zero rate of Customs Duty**

176. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the packaging industry has appealed to the Ministry to allow import of craft paper at nil rate of Customs Duty to tide over the present crisis and also to give opportunity to this industry to upgrade the quality of their products to international standards at affordable prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. As per record, the Federation of Corrugated Fibre Board Manufacturers have appealed to the Government for the implementation of NIL Custom duty on craft paper. It was sent on 11th May 2011 to Hon<sup>ble</sup> Finance Minister.

(b) Kraft paper is considered to be one of the most important component for manufacturing of Corrugated fibre board boxes. Corrugated fibre board boxes are being extensively used for the packaging application by replacing the use of wooden box but the raw materials are not readily available due to the restriction of cutting of trees., Corrugated fibre board box (CFB) is considered to be most important transport packaging material for the transportation of all types of commodity goods, and this particular industry is growing at the rate of 10-12% annually. The corrugated fibred board manufacturing industry has the compulsion to import the waste paper with long fibre for making the pulp to enhance the strength quality of the paper in order to comply with the international standards. Industry is facing a problem due to