

also has held meetings at his level, and all the Ministries and Departments are trying to co-operate and come out with something on this.

श्री बसावाराज पाटिल : माननीय सभापति जी, आपके माध्यम से मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि एक तरफ तो हम **slum free India** बनाने की सोच रहे हैं, लेकिन अभी बहुत से कामों में ही आपको काफी दिक्कतें महसूस हो रही हैं। एक आंकड़ा ऐसा आया कि आने वाले चार सालों में गांवों से नगरों की ओर लगभग 40 करोड़ जनता **shift** करेगी, ऐसी स्थिति में नगरों की स्थिति क्या होगी? भारत सरकार के एक जिम्मेदार मंत्री के नाते आपने इसके बारे में क्या कुछ सोचा है? क्या इसके लिए आप कोई नया रास्ता ढूँढ़ेंगे? वरना, कल को सिटी में आने वाले गरीबों के ये स्लम **unsocial, anti-national activities** के केन्द्र बनकर रह जाएंगे, जो देश के लिए घातक को सकता है।

कुमारी शैलजा : सर, मैं माननीय सदस्य से बिलकुल सहमत हूँ। 2011 के **census** के मुताबिक आज के दिन भी 31 करोड़ लोग शहरों में रह रहे हैं और आने वाले समय में, 2030 का **projection** है कि शहरी इलाकों में इसकी संख्या 40 प्रतिशत और ज्यादा बढ़ जाएगी। **We can all well imagine the kind of stress that will be put on the urban areas, whether they are towns or cities.**

We must gear up towards that and the problems are usually faced by the urban poor, those who live in slums, those who live in such bad conditions. That is why the Government has undertaken a very major initiative called 'The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission'. This Mission was meant for seven years. We have extended it for another two years so that the States which have taken up projects under this can complete the projects in the next two years, and after that, we have also announced a vision of 'Slum Free India'. Sir, this is a vision where everybody has to cooperate, whether it is the civil society, whether it is the poor living in these areas in such bad conditions, whether it is the Government. And, as I have said earlier, Sir, the main fulcrum of this is to assign property rights to the people. It has to be fought on many fronts. These challenges have to be met with by everybody together.

Increase in trade deficit

*466. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the country's trade deficit during the year 2011-12 has increased and is causing serious concern;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has made any efforts to bridge the gap of trade deficit;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps Government proposes to take to ensure that such trade deficit situation does not arise during the year 2012-13?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes Sir, as per the provisional figures provided by DGCI&S, Kolkata, the balance of trade deficit (On merchandise account) increased by 55.8 per cent to US \$ 184.9 billion in 2011-12 from US\$ 118.7 billion in 2010-11.

(c) and (d) Anticipating the slowdown in export growth, the Government had announced a package on 13th October, 2011. Earlier measures taken by the Government and RBI include the announcements made in the Budget 2009-10 and 2010-11; in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2009-14; thereafter in January/March 2010; in the Annual Supplement to FTP released on 23rd August, 2010; and in announcements made in February, 2011. To increase our share in various export markets and to diversify our market and products, incentives have been provided under schemes viz. Focus Product Scheme, Focus Market Scheme, Market linked Focus Product Scheme and Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana.

(e) The Department of Commerce has prepared a Strategy Paper for doubling India's merchandise exports over the year 2010-11 to 2013-14 from US\$ 251 billion in 2010-11 to US\$ 500 billion in 2013-14. The Strategy Paper aims at compound annual average growth in exports of about 27%. The Strategy Paper covers product strategy, market strategy, technology and R&D, building a brand image, and conducive domestic policy and essential support.

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE : Sir, my first supplementary is, increasing trade deficit is likely to hit 3.5 per cent of GDP. What steps is the Government going to take? What measure is it going to adopt to reduce this trade deficit?

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, this is a very important question which confronts the country. Let me at the outset say that India has performed extremely admirably in an environment of tremendous global uncertainty. When the developed markets across the world have been experiencing a tremendous amount of contraction, both on the trade front and the economic front, India is one of the more shining stars in that firmament. In fact, our share of world exports over the last four years from a low of one per cent has grown to about 1.8 per cent as of this financial year, and in terms of the top exporting countries, we were at number 27 in 2007, but, now, we are at number 20. There are many reasons for the trade deficit, some of which have to do with our own economic growth. There are four or five main reasons behind the 185 billion dollar trade deficit, which is an all-time high, up from 55 per cent from last year. The first, Sir, is the whole issue of exchange rate. On a month-to-month basis

our exchange rate has depreciated, from March to March, by almost 15 per cent and, from point to point, by almost 12 per cent. The second is the whole issue of petroleum and oil imports and crude oil imports because we are a growing economy. The very fact that oil prices have grown from 85 dollars a barrel to 123 dollars a barrel has resulted in the trade deficit on petroleum coming close to 99 billion dollars this fiscal year. The third is the whole issue of our imports with regard to coal, fertilizer and edible oil. Our increase in trade deficit on coal has grown by almost 7.9 billion dollars this year. On the issue of fertilizers, it has grown by almost 4.1 billion dollars and on edible oil by almost 3.1 billion dollars. The third, unrelated, but still very important, is India's growing trade deficit with China. Our trade deficit with China in the last fiscal year is close to about 33 billion dollars and finally, the trade deficit with regard to gold and jewellery stands at about 15 billion dollars. So, if we add up these four or five figures, 98 billion on account of petroleum, 33 billion on account of trade deficit with China, it is close to 15 billion dollars because of fertilizer, edible oil and coal, and another 15 billion dollars because of deficit on gold and jewellery because India is a net importer of gold and jewellery, we are coming close to 161 billion dollars out of the 185 billion dollars, which is 85 per cent of our trade deficit. We are trying to increase our exports to be able to bridge that deficit, and that is the reason why our exports this year had grown by almost by 21 per cent, which has not been achieved by any other country across the world. So, we must give kudos to our exporters, to our industry, who are able to achieve that in these difficult times. We are concentrating on Latin America, on Africa, on Oceania, CIS and other parts of Asia, and the very fact that we are trying to lower transaction cost, which is an initiative that I myself am spearheading, along with ensuring that exports grow. Hopefully, we will be able to bridge that deficit.

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE : Sir, ban on export of certain goods and products is also responsible for trade deficit. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to which are those goods and products on which there is a ban and what our policy is in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am afraid, the Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Failure of Delhi Police in arresting human trafficking agents

*467. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Police has failed to arrest human trafficking agents selling young women to brothel owners on GB Road, Delhi;