

To stop the smuggling of contraband including wildlife contraband and other illegal activities, SSB has deployed 25 Bns and established 450 Border Out Posts (BOPs) on Indo Nepal Border (INB) which regularly carries out various operational activities like patrolling and laying of nakas along the border. Checking of persons crossing the border is also being carried out both randomly as well as on the basis of specific inputs received from SSB's own sources/sister agencies. Field formations and intelligence set ups are being regularly sensitized and continuous monitoring is being done in this regard.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Review of Export Performance

1. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has reviewed country's export performance in the wake of uncertain economic condition in the western markets;
- (b) if so, the details thereof in percentage terms in 2010-11 and 2011-12;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate during 2011-12 is at 6.5, the lowest in nine years;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) what corrective steps Government is taking so that the economy picks up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Export performance is monitored continuously. India's export is increased by 40.5 % and 21.3 % (provisional) in US \$ terms during 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The low growth is attributable to both global and domestic factors. The global factors include the crisis in the euro-zone and the near-recessionary conditions prevailing in Europe; sluggish growth in several industrialized economies including the USA; hardening international prices of crude oil. Among domestic factors, the tightening of monetary policy in order to control inflation resulted in the slowing down of investment and growth, particularly in the industrial sector.

(e) Measures taken by the Government include enhancing the level of investment for agriculture sector including irrigation projects, promoting Micro Small

and Medium Enterprise sector by way of higher allocation of funds, enhancing investment in the infrastructure sector focusing on Public Private Partnership and number of legislative measures to develop the financial sector.

Slowdown in merchandise exports

2. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether exports have witnessed a sharp slowdown with outbound merchandise inching up just 3.23 per cent to \$24.5 billion in April;

(b) whether it is also a fact that carpets export declined in 2011-12;

(c) whether the study by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) will form the basis for sops likely to be offered by Government to exporters; and

(d) if so, what is the time-frame?

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

(c) and (d) No formal study has been conducted. The Government of India continuously monitors the global economic developments and takes need based measures from time to time.

Apprehension of political parties against FDI in retail trade

†3. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that certain political parties of the country has cautioned Government by expressing their views that the livelihood of the small shopkeepers of unorganised sector will be adversely affected by promoting foreign capital investment in retail market of the country;

(b) if so, the name of those parties whose views have been expressed in the country so far; and

(c) whether Government has taken any decision after considering upon these views?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Views, both for and against, have been received from various stakeholders, including

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi