

(d) In recent years Indian export has shown an increase of non-traditional items including leather, electronics, chemicals and services.

#### **Decline in merchandise exports**

1256. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the merchandise exports have declined when compared to imports during the last few years even though Government facilitated the exporting companies;

(b) what is its impact on the economy;

(c) whether there is any action plan to boost the rate of exports and identify new markets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Exports in value terms have increased every year from 2008-09 onwards except 2009-10 when there was a decline. However, in comparison to exports, imports have increased more during the last few years. This has led to widening of the trade deficit.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has formulated a strategy paper for diversifying the product basket as well as the traditional markets for exports from India. The same focuses on moving up the value chain in respect of traditional Indian exports of Engineering, Textiles, Gems and Jewellery with special focus on non-traditional sectors like leather, electronics and chemicals where there is a lot of potential for export from India. Focus Market Scheme is designed for diversifying India's exports to different markets. 119 markets have been identified under Focus Market Scheme. A variant of this is the Market Linked Focus Product Scheme. Export to such markets is given benefit in the form of Duty Credit Scrip.

#### **FDI in retail trade against Standing Committee recommendations**

1257. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 351 given in the Rajya Sabha on 5 September, 2012 and to state: