

- (b) if so, what action is being taken against the delinquent parties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) and (b) References alleging involvement of some companies in retail trading, in violation of the FDI policy, have been received. The same were referred to the Reserve Bank of India, as violation of FDI regulations is covered by the penal provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA). The Reserve Bank of India has informed that matters related to Bharti Wal-Mart/ Cedar Support Services Limited and M/s Flipkart Online Services Pvt. Limited, respectively, have been referred to the Directorate of Enforcement for further investigations.

Impact of apple import on domestic growers

†2028. SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian apple growers have to bear losses due to import of apples from abroad;
- (b) whether Government has any proposed plan to increase import duty on apple and protect the interests of apple growing States; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The present import tariff is 50% which is also a bound rate of duty agreed in GATT/WTO. The scope for further increase in tariff rates without further negotiation under the WTO regime seems unlikely at present.

Increase in export of Agro-products

†2029. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the export of agro-products have increased drastically in the last two decade;
- (b) if so, Government's response thereto;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the details of export price of agro-products in the beginning of 1990s and at the end of 2000s and in 2011-12;

(d) whether it is also a fact that export price and its quantity is higher in the last five years as compared to the first five years of the above said period and;

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government's policy on export of agriculture produce depends upon various factors including stocks of agriculture products available in the country, surplus over and above the buffer stock norm and strategic reserve requirements, if any, the concerns of food security, availability of agriculture products to common man at reasonable prices and remunerative returns to the grower and price competitiveness in the international market etc.

Increase in export of agricultural products is a result of continuous encouragement of exports by taking number of steps, which include incentives and financial assistance under Plan Schemes of the Commodity Board, Authority and Export Promotion Councils. Besides this, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has put in place various schemes namely Market Development Assistance (MDA), Market Assistance Initiative (MAI), Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE), Vishesh Krishi and Gram Upaj Yojana, Focus Product Scheme, Focus Market Scheme, Town of Export Excellence, etc. to provide assistance to encourage exports. Trade delegations are also mounted to penetrate foreign markets and Buyer-Seller Meets are organized to assist the potential exports.

(c) The overall average price realisation for export of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) scheduled agri products for 1990-91, 2009-10 and 2011-12 were Rs. 9336.29 per ton, Rs. 31155.65 per ton and Rs. 41634.69 per ton respectively.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The overall average price realisation of APEDA schedule agri products during 1990-91 to 1994-95 and 2007-08 to 2011-12 were Rs. 11932.09 per ton and Rs. 30814.27 per ton respectively. The average quantity of export of APEDA schedule agri products during the aforesaid period were 8789920.37 ton and 7552802.75 ton respectively.