Port-wise import of NR during April, 2012- January, 2013

Port	Quantity (Tonne)
Mumbai	78766
Chennai	60448
Cochin	11277
Kolkata	8890
Others	37732
TOTAL	197113

The existing rate of customs duty on import of dry form of Natural Rubber is 20% or Rs. 20/- per kg whichever is lower. The import duty on latex is 70% or Rs.49/- per kg whichever is lower. The applied rate of custom duty for Synthetic Rubber is 10%, except Butyl Rubber for which duty is 5%. Statistics on channel and port wise import of Synthetic Rubber are, however, not readily available.

(d) and (e) "Indian Natural Rubber" branded NR was included in the Market Linked Focus Product Scheme (MLFPS) vide Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Public Notice No. 3 (RE2012)/2009-14 dated 5 June, 2012. Under this scheme, branded rubber is incentivized at 2% of Free On Board (F.O.B) value when exported to the linked markets (Malaysia, China, Turkey, Brazil, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Germany, Sri Lanka, Bulgaria, Austria, Korea, Mexico, Israel, Singapore, Indonesia, Portugal, Argentina, Australia and USA). There is no other incentive for export of NR. Export of NR during 1st April, 2012 to 31st January, 2013 was 15,632 Tonnes. Out of this 7542 tonnes were branded rubber.

Slow down of industrial growth rate

1717. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the quick estimates of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for the month of December, 2012, the monthly growth rates of the manufacturing sector for December, 2012 was negative 0.7 percent, as against a growth of 2.8 percent in 2011;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is proposing any measures to increase industrial growth in addition to the existing measures; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reasons for decline in the growth of manufacturing sector can be attributed to both domestic as well as international factors which include Eurozone crisis and decline in external demand, moderation in domestic demand, hardening of interest rates, inflationary pressure, rising input cost, etc.

(c) and (d) The Government is taking a number of steps to accelerate the industrial growth of the country. The measures taken recently include announcement of the National Manufacturing Policy (NMP), 2011 with objectives of, increasing the share of manufacturing in GDP to 25% and creating 100 million additional jobs over a decade. The policy, *inter-alia,* envisages setting up of National Investment and Manufacturing Zones (NIMZs), which are industrial townships, benchmarked to the best manufacturing hubs in the world. So far eight NIMZs have been announced along the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) in the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Four other NIMZs outside the DMIC have been granted 'in-principle' approval - two in Andhra Pradesh and one each in Karnataka and Maharashtra. NMP also envisages skill development as a priority area.

Over the years, the Government has also simplified and rationalised the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy, to attract FDI flow into the country.

The other important steps taken involve Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project along the dedicated freight corridor, launching of the e-biz Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan, and creating a joint venture 'Invest India' in association with FICCI as a dedicated agency for promoting foreign investment in India. Besides, incentives are given for helping industries in difficult areas through Plan Schemes of Transport Subsidy, special package of incentives for Special Category States, North-East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy 2007 and specific programmes like Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme, Indian Leather Development Programme etc.

Sectoral Ministries/Departments in the Government are also implementing various schemes and programmes and taking measures for boosting industrial growth of the respective sectors.

In addition the various measures announced in the Budget Proposals for 2013-14 highlight the Government's priorities for arresting the moderation in industrial growth.

Review of operation of price stabilisation fund trust

1718. DR K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has reviewed the operation of the Price Stabilisation Fund Trust;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the period of operation of the Price Stabilisation Fund is likely to end on 28 February, 2013; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to extend it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) Scheme has been reviewed by various Committee set up by the Government from time to time, namely, Dr Pronab Sen Committee, Rangachary Task Force and High Powered Sub-Committee. On the recommendation of these Committee, particularly High Powered Sub-Committee, a Modified Price Stablisation Fund (MPSF) Scheme is being formulated.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The ongoing Price Stabilisaiton Fund Scheme, launched in April, 2003 for a period of 10 years, is closing on 31.03.2013. There is no proposal to extend the ongoing Price Stabilisaiton Fund Scheme beyond 31.03.2013. However, the restructured and Modified Price Stabilisaiton Fund Scheme, addressing the indentified bottlenecks of the ongoing Scheme and making it more beneficiary friendly, is being formulated.

Transparency in the process of Indo-EU FTA

1719. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement talks;

(b) whether Government has consulted the State Governments and the political parties about the treaty;