

- (a) the details of duty imposed by Thailand on steel imports from India;
- (b) whether it will have any adverse effect on companies exporting steel and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what steps Government contemplates to protect its manufacturing sector and increase steel exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): (a) and (b) Recently, Thailand imposed a definitive safeguard duty on imports of certain hot rolled steel flat products originating from India at the *ad valorem* rate of 44.2% for the period 15th September, 2013 to 26th February, 2014. This would be progressively reduced as per the provisions of Agreement on Safeguard under the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Safeguard duty so imposed will have an impact on India's exports of those specific products to Thailand.

(c) Government is constantly reviewing policies and providing support from time to time to make the Indian products competitive in the international market. Apart from the neutralization of duties on imports, Government is providing incentives to various sectors, including engineering sector, by way of Focus Product Scheme, Focus Market Scheme, Market Linked Focus Product Scheme, Interest Subvention, Incremental Growth Scheme etc. To protect the domestic manufacturing sector, amongst others, Government is also monitoring the imports of steel products, so as to ensure that imports which can be avoided by strengthening the domestic manufacture are identified. Government is also invoking Trade Remedial actions by way of Anti-Dumping and Safeguard duties on imports following the rights and obligations under WTO.

#### **Difficulties in selling tea in international market**

1560. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of tea manufacturers in India are facing difficulties towards selling tea in international markets due to different certificates in different categories which needs to be acquired mandatorily;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and list of such certificates required; and
- (c) the details of the criterion fixed and provision made by Government to

maintain minimum quality levels of tea in India supporting the norms to sell tea in international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present, Tea Board issues the below mentioned certificates for an export consignment

- i. Clearance Certificate.
- ii. Certificate of Origin (in case of Darjeeling Tea Exports only at present).

A clearance certificate is generated online immediately after submission of the application/information pertaining to the consignment by the exporter. The Certificate of Origin is also issued by Tea Board on the same day/the very next day of submission of the application by the Darjeeling Tea exporters. Therefore, no delay in shipment occurs due to the issuance of the above certificates.

(c) Tea Board follows the parameters stipulated in the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to maintain the minimum quality level in Indian tea.

#### **Foreign investment proposals cleared by FIPB**

†1561. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of proposals approved by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) after the implementation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the retail sector;
- (b) the details of the sectors other than the retail sectors in which the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has approved the proposals so far; and
- (c) whether the pace of the inflow of foreign investment has been as per the expectations of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): (a) The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has approved about 76 proposals since the inception of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy on the retail sector, from February, 2006 and upto December, 2013.

(b) The major sectors, other than retail, in which the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has granted approvals so far are defence, broadcasting, print

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.