

- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the arguments given by European Union in support of their ban;
- (d) the extent to which Government agrees with that; and
- (e) the action taken in the matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The European Union (EU) has prohibited import from India of Indian mangoes and four other vegetables viz. Tarro Plant (Arbi-except root and seed), brinjal, snake gourd and bitter gourd, effective from 1st May, 2014 on account of interceptions of export consignments not compliant with EU phytosanitary regulations.

(c) to (e) EU has imposed the ban as the number of consignments from India intercepted with harmful organisms has shown an upward trend since 2010. In order to protect the EU's plant health status, the EC has prohibited import of mango and four vegetables from India.

Though there have been interceptions in the EU but Government of India has taken up the matter with the EU that the ban is unjustified in view of the fact that the NPPO of India had committed that *w.e.f.* 1.4.2014 all export of fruits and vegetables to the EU will be routed through APEDA recognized pack house where phytosanitary inspection would also be carried out.

The Government of India has taken several measures including enhancement of capacity and numbers of inspecting staff and improvement in infrastructure, implementation of a Standard Operating Procedure to guarantee safe exports and routing of all export consignments of perishables to EU through approved pack houses from 01.04.2014 to enable better inspection and certification.

India has not only informed the EU regarding implementation of these control systems but have also formally conveyed our concerns on the temporary restriction imposed by the EU.

In the light of concerted efforts on India's part, Food and Veterinary office of European Commission has agreed to send an audit team in September, 2014 to verify improvement in plant health controls and certification system with regard to fruits and vegetables.

#### **World Bank Report on conducting business in India**

768. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that a recent World Bank Report tagged India as 'less than favourable' for doing business; and

(b) if so, the details of reasons for 'less than favourable' tag for doing business in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) As per Doing Business Report 2014 conducted by the World Bank, India is ranked at 134th in 189 countries. There is 'no less than favourable' tag given by the Report.

(b) India's rank is based on the parameters of:-

- (i) Starting Business
- (ii) Dealing with construction permit
- (iii) Getting Electricity
- (iv) Paying Taxes
- (v) Enforcing Contracts
- (vi) Resolving insolvency and
- (vii) Trading across border.

#### **Thefts of artifacts from museums**

769. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether thefts of antiquities from museums are routine and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has not been able to recover them;

(b) if so, how many artifacts have been found missing or stolen so far from various museums;

(c) how many artifacts have been recovered so far; and

(d) the measures taken by Government for maintenance and recovery of stolen artifacts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details given in the Statement (*See* below).

(d) In case of reporting of any theft/mis-happening, museum in-charge responds promptly. After lodging FIR with the local authorities, Director (Antiquity) issues look-out notices along with details and photographs of the antiquities to all Circles of ASI and law-enforcing agencies *i.e.* CBI, DRI, etc.