

Temporary ban on export of some agricultural commodities

1547. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision to temporarily ban the export of some agricultural commodities following reports of a weak monsoon;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the likely impact on the exports of agricultural products during 2014-15?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) No Sir. Government has not taken any recent decision to ban the export of any agricultural commodity temporarily.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The export of agricultural products depend on various factors including availability of surplus over and above the requirement of buffer stock, if any, including strategic reserve, concerns of food security, diplomatic/humanitarian considerations, international demand and supply situation, quality standards in the importing countries, varieties traded and price competitiveness, need to balance between remunerative prices to the growers and availability of agricultural products to common man at affordable prices.

Agreement signed with China for setting up Chinese Industrial Parks

†1548. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India and China have signed an agreement to set up Chinese Industrial Parks in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this agreement is likely to reduce India's trade deficit with China;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of immediate and long-term benefits to be accrued to India from this agreement?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation on Industrial Parks in India was signed between the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India and Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China on 30 June, 2014. Both the countries have agreed to cooperate to increase mutual investment in each other's economies in accordance with the relevant domestic laws and regulations of each country, and on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. Both the countries have also agreed to share relevant information on the regulatory framework and investment priorities/projects as may be needed during the preparation of investment proposals. Both the countries have also agreed to provide necessary local assistance to implement projects under this MoU.

(c) to (e) Widening trade deficit with China is a major concern for India. Signing of the MoU is expected to facilitate investment from Chinese companies into India, facilitate an orderly flow of production factors from China into India and accelerate development of competitive manufacturing sector in India as a result of which many goods which are now being imported from China could be expected to be produced in the country which in turn is expected to reduce the country's trade deficit. Increase in manufacturing growth will also provide gainful employment to large number of youth in the country.

Ticket counters at national monuments

1549. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of national monuments maintained by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) which maintain ticket counters in the country;
- (b) how much gate money is generated by these monuments;
- (c) whether Government would consider utilization of this gate money for the upkeep of these monuments and also on the maintenance of staff; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) There are 116 ticketed monuments, archaeological sites and remains under the Archaeological Survey of India. The revenue earned through sale of entry tickets during the last three years is as under: