

India has since succeeded in getting a Decision adopted by the WTO General Council on 27 November, 2014 which makes it clear that a mechanism, under which WTO Members will not challenge the public stockholding programmes of developing country members for food security purposes, in relation to certain obligations under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, will remain in place in perpetuity until a permanent solution regarding this issue has been agreed and adopted. This strengthens the safeguard available for continuing the Minimum Support Price policy and will ensure that India's food security operations are not constrained due to WTO rules.

(c) Do not arise, in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.

Exports from labour intensive sectors

1876. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the value-wise details of the exports from labour intensive sectors like leather, textiles, etc. during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether Government has conducted any study to analyse and identify the sectors which are lagging behind in international trade, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has reviewed the impact of the previous stimulus package for the sectors which are lagging behind in exports particularly the labour intensive sectors; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the fiscal and non-fiscal measures taken by Government to promote the exports from the labour intensive sectors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The value-wise details of the merchandise exports from labour intensive sectors like leather, textiles, etc. during each of the last three years and the current year are as follows:

Commodity	Value - (US \$ Billion)			
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15 (April-Oct.)*
Leather and Manufacturers	4.8	4.9	5.7	3.7
Textiles	27.2	26.4	30.5	16.7
Handloom Products	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.2
Carpet	0.8	1	1	0.9
Handicrafts	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.8
Sports Goods	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

Source: DGCI and S, * Provisional Figures

(b) to (d) Exports of handloom, handicrafts and other labour intensive sectors are supported through various schemes under Foreign Trade Policy like, Focus Market Scheme, Market Linked Focus Product Scheme, Focus Product Scheme and Duty Drawback Scheme. Exporters of these products can also avail duty free import of capital Goods under EPCG scheme and raw materials under Advance Authorisation Scheme or Duty Free Import Authorization (DFIA) Scheme. Exports of these sectors are also supported through different schemes implemented by various Ministries/ Departments like, Ministry of Textiles, Department of Industry Policy and Promotion, Ministry of MSME, Ministry of Food Processing Industries etc. These schemes are reviewed from time to time by the concerned Ministries.

Some of the promotional measures taken by the Government for Labour intensive sectors are:

- (i) Two per cent Interest Subvention Scheme, which was available for certain export sectors *viz.* Handicrafts, Carpet, Handlooms, SMEs, Readymade Garments, Processed Agriculture Products and Toys was enhanced from 2% to 3 % with effect from 1.8.2013 to 31.3.2014.
- (ii) The exemption of excise duty on handmade carpets and textile floor coverings of coir and jute.
- (iii) The zero excise duty at fibre stage for cotton and a duty of 12 per cent at the fibre stage for spun yarn made of manmade fibre.
- (iv) In Union Budget 2014-15 also, following steps have been announced to encourage exports of labour intensive sectors, including handicrafts and handlooms:
 - Duty free entitlements for import of trimmings, embellishments and other specified items have enhanced from 3% to 5% of the value of exports for readymade garments.
 - Mega textile clusters with a sum of ₹200 crore at various places of India like Varanasi, Bareilly etc.
 - Trade Facilitation Centre and a Crafts Museum with an outlay of ₹ 50 crore.
 - A Hastkala Academy with an outlay of ₹30 crore.

Lifting ban on import of agricultural products from USA

1877. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has asked for lifting the ban on import of US agricultural products to India, if so, the details thereof;