

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी : अगर माननीय सदस्य कोई नोटिस देते हैं तो उसके बाद माननीय मंत्री जी के समय की सुविधा के अनुसार डिस्कशन हो सकता है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: That settles the matter.

श्रीमती जया बच्चन : सर, आप पूछ लीजिए, मैंने ...(व्यवधान)... कब करेंगे? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री किरन रिजिजू : अगर माननीय सभापति जी अनुमति दे देंगे तो हम लोग तैयार हैं।

श्रीमती जया बच्चन : यह आपको जरूरी नहीं लगता कि डिस्कशन करें। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Jayaji, your point has been registered. The hon. Minister has already said ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Not registered strongly enough, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think when you speak, it is always registered. Now, Question No.215.

Expansion in import basket vis-a-vis increase in exports

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

(a) whether it is a fact that while import basket of India has expanded but there is no corresponding increase in exports;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that exports have not increased; and

(c) what are the sectors that have fared badly in exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) During current year, there has been a marginal increase in India's exports (0.88%) and imports (0.70%) during 2014-15 (Apr.-Feb.), as compared to 2013-14 (Apr.-Feb.), as detailed below. The sector/commodity wise details of Exports and Imports (as per Quick Estimates) for the current year 2014-15 (Apr.-Feb.) are given in Statement-I and Statement-II respectively (See below).

(US\$ Billion)

	2013-14 (April-Feb.)	2014-15 (April-Feb.) (QE)	Percentage Change
Total Merchandise Exports	284.07	286.58	0.88
Total Merchandise Imports	408.92	411.80	0.70

Source: DGCI&S

(QE): As per Quick Estimates.

(b) The main reasons for decline in Exports are as under:

- (i) There is a fall in global demand due to slowing down of World Trade. World Trade Organization (WTO) in its Press Release dated, 26th September, 2014, has reduced the forecast for World Trade growth in 2014 to 3.1% (down from 4.7% in April, 2014) and in 2015 (down from 5.3% to 4.0%).
- (ii) EU countries that account for nearly 16% of India's exports, are facing problems of stagnation and deflation. The appreciation of the rupee against the euro has adversely impacted India's exports to EU countries.
- (iii) The demand in certain other important markets like ASEAN, China and Japan has also fallen.
- (iv) As a consequence of fall in prices of crude oil, the exports of Petroleum Crude and Products, that contribute around 19 per cent of India's exports, have also gone down, even though the quantity of exports of these items has increased approximately by 7.33%.
- (v) As a result of muted global demand, the value of exports of Agricultural commodities, accounting for about 9.6 % of India's exports, has also decreased.

(c) The main commodities/sectors that have registered a decline in exports during 2014-15 (April-Feb.) as compared to corresponding period last year, are - Petroleum Products, Gems and Jewellery, cotton yarn/fabrics/made-ups and handloom products, Electronic goods, Plastic and linoleum, Spices, Fruits and Vegetables, handicrafts excluding handmade carpets, Oil meals, Other cereals, Iron Ore, Tobacco, Tea, Iron Ore, Jute Mfg. including Floor Covering.

Statement-I

Quick estimates for selected major commodities

TRADE: Export

Sl.No.	Commodities	(Values in Million USD)		% change
		Apr.13-Feb.14	Apr.14-Feb.15	Apr.14-Feb.15
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Engineering Goods	57648.37	66934.87	16.11
2.	Petroleum Products	57335.97	53739.04	-6.27
3.	Gems and Jewellery	37619.49	37430.64	-0.50

1	2	3	4	5
4.	RMG of all Textiles	13463.50	15260.90	13.35
5.	Drugs & Pharmaceuticals	13462.72	13886.07	3.14
6.	Organic and Inorganic Chemicals	11098.35	11621.17	4.71
7.	Cotton Yarn/Fabs./made-ups, Handloom Products etc.	10064.97	9822.56	-2.41
8.	Rice	7076.37	7205.40	1.82
9.	Electronic Goods	7170.57	5843.07	-18.51
10.	Leather and leather products	5078.84	5661.16	11.47
11.	Plastic and Linoleum	5572.06	5340.79	-4.15
12.	Marine Products	4592.42	5135.78	11.83
13.	Meat, dairy and poultry products	4773.01	4942.06	3.54
14.	Man-made Yarn/Fabs./made-ups etc.	4689.88	4838.97	3.18
15.	Mica, Coal and Other Ores, Minerals including processed minerals	3567.77	3590.29	0.63
16.	Spices	2261.93	2230.71	-1.38
17.	Fruits and Vegetables	1958.23	1820.70	-7.02
18.	Oil seeds	1166.42	1657.06	42.06
19.	Ceramic products and glassware	1165.20	1502.12	28.92
20.	Carpet	1077.32	1303.92	21.03
21.	Handicrafts excl. hand made carpet	1317.90	1271.01	-3.56
22.	Oil Meals	2560.04	1211.79	-52.67
23.	Cereal preparations and miscellaneous processed items	1040.84	1148.88	10.38
24.	Other cereals	1094.13	845.24	-22.75

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Tobacco	899.18	842.63	-6.29
26.	Cashew	770.68	835.24	8.38
27.	Coffee	693.53	697.43	0.56
28.	Tea	736.42	619.91	-15.82
29.	Iron Ore	1392.32	502.96	-63.88
30.	Jute Mfg. including Floor Covering	348.40	313.42	-10.04
SUB-TOTAL		261696.83	268055.79	2.43
GRAND TOTAL		284074.69	286582.71	0.88

Note: The figures for Feb'15 and Apr.14 to Feb.15 are provisional and subject to change

Statement-II

Quick estimates for selected major commodities

TRADE: Import

Sl.No.	Commodities	(Values in Million USD)		% change
		Apr.13-Feb.14	Apr.14-Feb.15	Apr.14-Feb.15
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Cotton Raw and Waste	370.19	484.27	23.56
2.	Vegetable Oil	6592.22	8937.45	26.24
3.	Pulses	1713.72	2419.17	29.16
4.	Fruits and Vegetables	1266.78	1505.63	15.86
5.	Pulp and Waste paper	702.65	868.50	19.10
6.	Textile yarn Fabric, made-up articles	1396.02	1559.52	10.48
7.	Fertilisers, Crude and manufactured	6088.34	6806.06	10.55
8.	Sulphur and Unroasted Iron Pyrts	159.84	262.34	39.07
9.	Metaliferrous ores and other minerals	7878.80	8541.45	7.76
10.	Coal, Coke and Briquettes, etc.	14828.17	15967.66	7.14

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Petroleum, Crude and products	149103.21	130848.36	-13.95
12.	Wood and Wood products	4654.94	5084.75	8.45
13.	Leather and leather products	755.52	929.90	18.75
14.	Organic and Inorganic Chemicals	16000.53	17314.48	7.59
15.	Dyeing / tanning / colouringmtrls.	2198.90	2275.45	3.36
16.	Artificial resins, plastic materials, etc.	9522.75	11176.80	14.80
17.	Chemical material and products	4469.95	5010.18	10.78
18.	Newsprint	824.43	776.82	-6.13
19.	Pearls, precious and Semi-precious stones	21837.42	20614.28	-5.93
20.	Iron and Steel	11623.85	14905.78	22.02
21.	Non-ferrous metals	8120.22	9900.98	17.99
22.	Machine tools	2814.75	2893.63	2.73
23.	Machinery, electrical and non-electrical	24884.87	25900.47	3.92
24.	Transport equipment	17500.92	15118.69	-15.76
25.	Project goods	4157.77	3346.88	-24.23
26.	Professional instrument, Optical goods, etc.	3236.06	3368.54	3.93
27.	Electronic goods	29611.05	34091.67	13.14
28.	Medisinal and Pharmaceutical products	4783.28	4980.94	3.97
29.	Gold	26133.97	29341.90	10.93
30.	Silver	4348.88	3962.09	-9.76
SUB-TOTAL				
GRAND TOTAL		408919.22	411803.65	0.70

Note: The figures for Feb.15 and Apr.14 to Feb.15 are provisional and subject to change.

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Sir, there is a problem with the data provided by the Minister. I fear it does not reflect the real situation which is very grim. The negative growth in our exports is mostly in labour-intensive areas, in sectors like textiles and handicrafts, which create most of the job opportunities in the country, particularly in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Decline of exports in these areas translates into the loss of jobs and income of the rural artisans and other working class people. Sir, I would like to ask the Minister, through you, what the Government is going to do to reverse this trend. How is it going to address the issue? What is the specific plan, if there is any, for improving our export competitiveness and the volume of exports, providing jobs, particularly to the rural artisans, improving the rural skill development and improving the employment in rural areas, particularly of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, may I submit, first of all, that the decline in exports is not happening just in labour-intensive areas? We have stated in the answer – for the benefit of the House I would just very quickly read it out – that petroleum products, gems and jewellery, cotton yarn/fabrics/made-ups and handloom products, electronic goods, plastic and linoleum, spices, fruits, vegetables, handicrafts, excluding handmade carpets, oil meals, other cereals, iron ore, tobacco, tea, jute manufacturing including floor covering, all of them have equally suffered. But I am happy to state that at least in the current year, as of ending February, in the ten months, there is a marginal increase in our exports, to the extent of 0.88 per cent. Therefore, the decline is stopping. It is definitely no longer as grave as it was. There is actually an increase in exports. The Government, of course, is taking a lot of steps towards incentivizing and helping manufacturing sector and also exports. I can go into the detail but then that is the supplementary.

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Sir, my second supplementary is about the declining agricultural exports, particularly from the States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The State of Andhra Pradesh, in the year 2014-15, has faced with the severe Hudhud Cyclone. Also, some parts of Telangana and Andhra, particularly of Rayalaseema, are facing the severe drought. In these circumstances, is there any chance of going for export-oriented agriculture-intensive programme? In this regard, ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. You have asked the question.

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: No, Sir. It is in continuation.

Sir, my supplementary is: How are you going to give a boost, a thrust, to exports from agricultural and allied sectors, like fisheries, from Andhra Pradesh and other States? Does the Government plan to set up an exclusive export mechanism

for agri-exports since APEDA is not able to deliver? And, do you have any plans to discourage or even stop importing palm oil and other edible oils and alternatively encourage these crops in the country, particularly where the atmosphere is congenial, like in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana? And do you have any plans to improve floriculture in the States?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please answer one of the various questions asked.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I understand the concern of the hon. Member about the decline or the difficult circumstances in which agriculture produce exports are suffering, particularly in Andhra Pradesh. But I would like to say that the global demand itself for agriculture produces, sort of, muted and value for exports of agriculture commodities, accounting for about 9.6 per cent of Indian exports, has declined. But then the way in which we can incentivize exports has got to be from the point of view of the produce and post-harvest which concerns our Ministry, the Commerce. Post-harvest is what I would be focussing my attention on in order to provide infrastructure, which is common, for storage and value addition, and, it is with those and through those steps, that we would like to help agricultural produce exports.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the Minister rightly said, though there is a marginal increase of 0.88 per cent in the exports, it is not up to the desired extent. Overall, there is a decline in the Indian exports and the reason stated is that there is a fall in the global demand due to slowing down of the world trade and the appreciation of the rupee against the Euro. For these two reasons, the exporters cannot be held responsible, and, there is nothing to be addressed from their side. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the steps being taken by the Government to address these issues and to increase the Indian exports.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I fully appreciate the point that 0.88 marginal increase alone cannot help to boost exports but I only indicated that to show that the downward trend is halted and now we are looking at upward growth. There are several measures that the Government has taken. I can readily spell about seven specific steps that we have taken, which would go in the way of improving exports. First of all, several budgetary measures have been announced. I can always provide the Members the specific details because there are ten to twelve of them, which will help. We also feel that the monetary policy stand of the RBI, particularly, when you are talking about the repo rate reduction, which the RBI has done now twice over, will also help in availability of credit for those who want to take credit. On ease of doing business, the Government has really started doing a lot of intensive work. The Electronic Data Interchange for promoting acceptance of electronic means in place of physical documents itself is accepting the exporters.

1.00 P.M.

I would like to say that the number of documents required for export-import has been reduced to just three; the time taken for processing is also reduced. These are specific measures that we have taken up. The EDI initiatives to boost exports are also something on which I can give a lot more details. Sir, what is even more important, is, and, I would like to elaborate a bit more, that we have introduced initiatives that are clearly going to help exports. Since trade happens through 12 major ports, 187 minor ports and many private notified ports too – there are 155 functioning and 89 under-development Inland Container Depots – all of which are now getting seamlessly connected through the Electronic Data Information Sharing and there are 138 Land Customs Stations, through which exports is being helped. These are measures, which I am specifically attending to, by opening more Land Customs Stations, which will definitely give a lot more ease in taking up export-related activities.

One of the points towards which I would definitely like to draw the attention of the hon. Member – as he is talking about as to how exports can be better serviced – is that the efficiency of custom clearance has been a major issue, and, the Ministry of Commerce is in interaction and engagement with the customs people to see as to how best 24x7 clearances can be given at various ports of call so that the burden on the exporters is reduced, and, that has been very well received.

Enhancing investments and also for trade, we are in engagement with very many Governments. I would just like to mention one or two, without taking much of the time of the House. WTO meetings have been held since July; international pharmaceutical R&D groups have been engaging with us for Manufacturing Expo/Conferences. Seventh India-Oman Joint Commission meeting has been held. I can give more details and also the announcement regarding Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, with whom a lot of our agricultural produce is also being traded. So, the Government is taking a lot of specific steps in order that manufacturing and exports increase.

श्री शरद यादव: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैडम निर्मला सीतारमण जी से मैं आपके माध्यम से कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारा व्यापार घाटा बढ़ गया है और डालडा जैसी चीज का इम्पोर्ट 8.66 लाख टन हुआ है, यानी 50 परसेंट से ज्यादा यहाँ डालडा इम्पोर्ट हो रहा है। हमारा एक्सपोर्ट बहुत घट गया है। आपने बताया कि हमारा एक्सपोर्ट दशमलव में जा रहा है। दशमलव तो चींटी की चाल है। एक्सपोर्ट को खरगोश की चाल कैसे बनाया जाए, इसकी कोई योजना बनाइए, क्योंकि इस साल व्यापार घाटा बढ़ गया है।
