

- (i) Creating awareness amongst the entrepreneurs with regard to international business and equipping them with the knowledge to enter into export business; and
- (ii) Updating the knowledge of those who are already in the export-import trade.

(c) and (d) As per the information provided by FIEO these programmes cover a wide range of subjects including, *inter alia*, Introduction to International Trade, Trade Finance, benefits under Foreign Trade Policy, Customs Laws/procedures and associated formalities, Exchange Control Regulations, Export Documentation, Role of Insurance Agencies including ECGC, Export Packaging, Port Management, Export Pricing, Trade Fair Management, WTO etc., to keep entrepreneurs updated on the changing dynamics of international trade and the effect thereof on export import activities. These programmes also cover the promotional support given by the Government.

During the last three years and the current year, 775 participants have attended the programme.

Simplification of rules for issuance and renewal of gun licenses

*194. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of simplification of rules for issuance and renewal of gun licenses has been under consideration of Government for a long time; and

(b) if so, by when Government would take a decision for simplification of rules for issuance and renewal of gun licenses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Simplification and amendment in rules are considered from time to time, and appropriate decisions taken.

Decline in exports and imports

*195. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's exports declined for the eleventh month which is worse than even that during the global slowdown;

(b) whether India's imports have also declined helping the country's trade deficit in check;

(c) whether it is also a fact that export incentive schemes are yet to trickle down; and

(d) if so, what speedy steps the Ministry is taking to provide incentive schemes to the exporters to increase exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) Month-wise exports/ imports and trade deficit is given in the table below:—

(US \$ Billion)

Month	Export					Import					Trade Deficit				
	2013-14	2014-15	% Growth	2015-16 (April- Oct)*	% Growth	2013-14	2014-15	% Growth	2015-16 (April- Oct)*	% Growth	2013-14	2014-15	% Growth	2015-16 (April- Oct)*	% Growth
April	24.5	26.0	6.2	22.0	-15.3	41.6	35.8	-13.9	33.1	-7.5	17.1	9.8	-42.7	11.1	13.2
May	24.9	28.0	12.4	22.4	-20.0	44.0	39.1	-11.2	32.9	-15.8	19.1	11.1	-42.0	10.5	-5.2
June	24.0	25.9	8.0	22.5	-13.3	35.3	38.3	8.5	33.0	-13.8	11.3	12.4	9.6	10.5	-14.9
July	25.8	25.8	-0.2	23.2	-10.0	38.3	40.1	4.6	36.1	-9.9	12.5	14.3	14.4	12.9	-9.7
August	26.3	26.8	1.7	21.4	-20.0	37.0	37.5	1.2	33.7	-10.0	10.7	10.7	-0.1	12.3	15.2
Sept.	28.1	28.9	2.6	21.8	-24.5	34.3	43.3	26.5	32.3	-25.4	6.1	14.5	136.4	10.5	-27.3
Oct.	27.5	25.9	-5.8	21.4	-17.3	38.1	39.5	3.7	30.9	-21.7	10.6	13.6	28.1	9.5	-30.1
Nov.	24.2	26.5	9.5			33.8	42.7	26.5			9.6	16.2	69.6		
Dec.	26.4	26.2	-0.9			36.6	35.3	-3.4			10.2	9.2	-10.0		
January	26.9	24.4	-9.3			36.4	32.3	-11.2			9.5	7.9	-16.7		
Feb.	25.3	22.0	-13.2			33.7	28.7	-14.7			8.3	6.7	-19.1		
March	30.3	24.0	-20.8			41.3	35.4	-14.2			11.0	11.4	4.1		
TOTAL	314.4	310.3	-1.3	154.8	-17.4	450.2	448.0	-0.5	232.1	-15.2	135.8	137.7	1.4	77.3	-10.4

*Provisional.

For the period 2015-16 (April–Oct.), the trade deficit has reduced by 10.4% with respect to the comparable period in the previous financial year.

The above position reflects the prevailing global slowdown marked by adverse global growth performance and steep fall in commodity prices.

(c) and (d) Exporters are availing of and benefitting from various Government initiatives to support them. The measures taken by the Government since April, 2015 include the following:

- (i) New Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20) launched on 1st April, 2015 with a focus on supporting both manufacturing and services exports and improving the 'Ease of Doing Business'. The policy has introduced two new schemes, namely, 'Merchandise Exports from India Scheme' (MEIS) for incentivising export of specified goods to specified markets and 'Services Exports from India Scheme' (SEIS) for increasing exports of notified services from India, by consolidating earlier schemes.
- (ii) By way of trade facilitation and enhancing the ease of doing business, Government reduced the number of mandatory documents required for exports and imports to three each, which is comparable with international benchmarks. The trade community can file applications online for various trade related schemes. Online payment of application fees through Credit/Debit Cards and electronic funds transfer from 53 Banks has been put in place.
- (iii) The Government has also expanded the coverage of Merchandise Exports from India scheme on 29th October, 2015 by adding 110 new items to the prevailing 4902 lines under the scheme. The reward rates/country coverage of 2228 items were enhanced. Consequently the envisaged revenue outgo under the scheme was increased from ₹ 18,000/- crore earlier to ₹ 21,000/- crore per annum.
- (iv) Government has infused additional Corpus (Capital) to the tune of ₹ 375/- crore into the National Export Insurance Account (NEIA), raising the corpus to over ₹ 2,100/- crore, and strengthen the capacity to augment Project exports from the country. The equity capital of ECGC Ltd. has also been raised by ₹ 50 crore to ₹ 1,300 crore, enabling higher underwriting capacity to support exporters to expand their business and support banks for adequate lending to exporters.
- (v) Recently, the government has approved the proposal for implementing the Interest Equalization Scheme on Pre and Post shipment Rupee Export Credit *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2015, incorporating an interest equalization element of 3%

per annum. This scheme will facilitate access to export credit at competitive rates of interest, given the lower interest rate levels prevailing for exporters in other countries.

- (vi) The State Governments have been requested to develop their export strategy, appoint export commissioners, address infrastructure constraints restricting movement of goods, facilitate refund of VAT/Octroi/State level cess, and address other issues relating to various clearances etc. and build capacity of new exporters, in order to promote exports.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Process for obtaining industrial output data

1921. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the manner/process through which the Central Government obtains the figures of industrial output data;

(b) whether such data is accurate or Government is contemplating any changes in the process of obtaining such data, as the GDP figures are also linked to such data/information; and

(c) the action taken/contemplated by Government to get accurate data/figures of industrial output in view of its importance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The Industrial Output data is captured and monitored, primarily, through two statistical activities (i) Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) on an annual basis and (ii) Index of Industrial Production (IIP) on a monthly basis. The ASI is conducted under the Collection of Statistics Act, since 1959, to obtain comprehensive and detailed statistics of industrial sector with the objective of estimating the contribution of registered manufacturing industries as a whole to the national income. The IIP is compiled on the basis of data sourced from 16 ministries/administrative departments. Data for IIP are collected by various source agencies under different Acts/statutes. Data received then undergo scrutiny and validation before finalisation.

(b) and (c) The output figures for compilation of IIP are authenticated by respective line Ministries/departments and the ASI data is based on actual book of accounts and other documents maintained by registered factories. Government is not contemplating any changes in the process for obtaining this data. The improvement in statistics pertaining to industrial output is a dynamic process and quality of data