

(b) Following measures have been undertaken in “Make in Maharashtra” campaign:

- In MIDC area the number of licenses has been reduced from 66 to 46
- Greater Mumbai Municipal Corporation has reduced the construction permission procedures from 27 to 11.
- Number of approvals for electricity connection have been reduced from 7 to 3.
- Labour department has started using randomized risk based inspection for industrial establishments.

(c) Since November, 2014 till date the investment in Maharashtra through 46 Mega/Ultra Mega projects is ₹ 73958.21 crore.

(d) Investment in the Konkan Region through 9 mega projects is ₹ 45213.61 crore.

(e) The percentage of total investment assurances that have been realized is not maintained by the Government of Maharashtra or Government of India.

Safeguarding interests of Indian exporters

1934. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Indian exporters are facing many challenges in the backdrop of global economic slowdown;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps, if any, taken by Government to safeguard the interests of Indian exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) India's exports have been impacted adversely by the global slowdown involving a steep decline in commodity prices and an adverse global economic growth scenario. The data related to India's exports in recent period is as follows:—

Year	Export	
	Value (US\$ Billion)	% Growth
2013-14	314.41	4.66
2014-15	310.34	-1.29
2014-15 (April-October)	187.29	
2015-16 (April-October)*	154.77	-17.36

* Provisional

To address the situation the Government has taken various measures which includes 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.