

the domestic industry. It has so far initiated 322 anti-dumping cases out of which 177 cases involve China PR.

Further, in order to boost exports and to maintain balance of trade with China, India has impressed upon China to recognise the need for reduction in trade imbalance for a long term, sustainable and harmonious development, of economic co-operation between the two countries. During the 10th Meeting of the Indian-China Joint Economic Group (JEG) at Ministerial level, both the countries have reaffirmed their determination to expand and diversify bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The two sides have agreed to take positive steps towards balancing bilateral trade. Both countries signed the "Five Year Development Program for Economic and Trade Cooperation" wherein reduction of trade imbalance over the next five years has been identified as one of the principal objectives of trade and economic cooperation between India and China.

Decline in import of life saving drugs

†657. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the import of life saving drugs has been decreased after the withdrawal of customs duty exemption on these drugs in February, 2016;
- (b) the month-wise details of import of such drugs during the last one year;
- (c) the amount of exemption being given on these drugs before the withdrawal of customs duty exemption on it in February and the present details thereof; and
- (d) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) Custom duty exemption on 76 drugs was removed by the Department of Revenue on 28.1.2016. Subsequently, the Department of Revenue has restored the custom duty exemption in respect of three drugs on 17.2.2016. Most of these drugs do not have separate tariff lines for monitoring their import and fall under 'others' category. It is also too early to gauge the impact of removal of Custom duty exemption on these imports.

(c) The comparison of duty structure on the 76 drugs before and after withdrawal of customs and excise / CV duty concession / exemption is as under:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

List No. of notification No.12/2012- Customs, dated 17.03.2012	Formulations		Bulk Drugs	
	Before	After	Before	After
List-3	BCD-5%	BCD-10%	BCD-5%	BCD-7.5%
	Excise/CVD-Nil	Excise/ CVD-6%	Excise/ CVD-Nil	Excise/ CVD-12.5%
	SAD-Nil	SAD-Nil	SAD-4%	SAD-4%
List-4	BCD-Nil	BCD-10%	BCD-Nil	BCD-7.5%
	Excise/CVD-Nil	Excise/ CVD-6%	Excise/ CVD-Nil	Excise/ CVD-12.5%
	SAD-Nil	SAD-Nil	SAD-Nil	SAD-4%

(d) Notification No.10/2016-Customs, dated 17.02.2016 has been issued restoring the customs and excise / CV duty concession / exemption on Octreotide and Somatropin/ by including these drugs in List 3 and on Anti- Haemophilic Factor Concentrate (VIII/ and LX) by including it in List 4 of the notification No.12/2012-Customs, dated 17.03.2012.

Effect of FTAs on trade deficit

658. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Free Trade Agreements signed by Government during the last three years;

(b) whether India's trade deficit has increased or decreased after entering into FTAs;

(c) if so, the details thereof with a comparison of trade deficit/surplus before entering into an FTA and current trade deficit/surplus with individual countries and trade blocks;

(d) whether Government mandates the undertaking of joint study groups before signing of FTAs, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and