

The products from India which were refused entry included Medicine, Bakery Products, Fried snacks, spices, ground, mixed, Basmati Rice, fisheries Herbals & botanicals, Dietary Supplements, Hair Dyes and Colors, and other Bath Preparations. The reasons given for the refusals vary from problems in Misbranding, packaging, labelling, adulteration, pesticide, and unapproved etc.

(c) Among the steps taken by the Government include tightening labelling rules and making it mandatory for companies to clearly mention the dates of manufacturing, best before use and expiry dates improving pre-export inspection, greater emphasis on standards through sensitization of exporters for compliance of regulatory issues through export promotion agencies and also taking up the issue at bilateral trade forums wherever appropriate.

#### **Negative growth in exports**

661. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exports in India showed negative growth consecutively in the last 13 months;

(b) if so, the month-wise details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government had announced a number of export incentive schemes for exporters during these days; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) The month-wise details of India's exports for the last 13 months from January, 2015 to January, 2016 are as under:

<i>Value in US \$ Billion</i>			
Sl. No.	Month	2013-14	2014-15
		% Growth 2014-15 over 2013-14	
1.	January	26.89	24.39
2.	February	25.35	21.98
3.	March	30.34	24.03

Sl. No.	Month	2013-14	2014-15 (April-January)*	% Growth 2014-15 over 2013-14
4.	April	26.03	22.05	-15.29
5.	May	28	22.35	-20.18
6.	June	25.91	22.29	-13.97
7.	July	25.79	23.14	-10.28
8.	August	26.8	21.27	-20.63
9.	September	28.87	21.84	-24.35
10.	October	25.89	21.35	-17.54
11.	November	26.49	20.01	-24.46
12.	December	26.16	22.3	-14.76
13.	January	24.39	21.08	-13.57

\* Provisional

Source: DGCIS&S

(c) and (d) Details of key steps taken for promoting exports are as follows:

- i. The New Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20) was announced on 1st April, 2015 with a focus on supporting both manufacturing and services exports and improving the 'Ease of Doing Business'. The FTP introduced two new schemes, namely, 'Merchandise Exports from India Scheme' (MEIS) for incentivising export of specified goods to specified markets and 'Service Exports from India Scheme' (SEIS) for promoting export of notified services from India, by consolidating earlier schemes.
- ii. E-Commerce exports of handloom products, books/periodicals, leather footwear, toys and customized fashion garments through courier or foreign post offices were also included for benefit under MEIS. In order to give a boost to exports from SEZs, benefits of both MEIS and SEIS were extended to units located in SEZs.
- iii. In the light of the major challenges being faced by Indian exporters in the backdrop of the global economic slowdown, the envisaged revenue outgo under MEIS was increased from ₹ 18000 Crore to 21000 crore in October, 2015 with accompanying enhancement in benefits on certain products and

inclusion of certain additional items. As per DGCI&S data, while merchandise exports during the period April to December, 2015 have declined by about 19% as a whole, items covered under MEIS have shown a decline of only about 9% during this period in the face of a severe global economic slowdown. This demonstrates a likely positive impact of this intervention in promoting our exports.

- iv. 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.
- v. Government has infused additional Corpus (Capital) to the tune of 375 crore into the National Export Insurance Account (NEIA), raising the corpus to over 2100 crore, and strengthening the capacity to augment Project exports from the country. The equity capital of ECGC Ltd. has also been raised by 50 crore to 1300 crore enabling higher underwriting capacity to support exporters to expand their business and support banks for adequate lending to exporters.
- vi. Further, the Government continues to provide the facility of access to duty free raw materials and capital goods for exports through schemes like Advance Authorisation, Duty Free Import Authorisation (DFIA), Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) and drawback / refund of duties.

#### **Investment climate in India**

†662. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a report on survey conducted by Ernst and young, India has been rated as the best investment destination for investors vis-a-vis other countries;

(b) whether according to the report, investor companies are enthusiastic about participating in Digital India programme and also investing in small cities;

(c) whether India is likely to be included in top 50 countries in the World Bank's list for ease of doing business in next three years; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.