

Non-finalization of CEPA with Canada

1307. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons that Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations between India and Canada are going on for the last five years but not yet finalized;

(b) what are the contentious issues in the CEPA;

(c) how many rounds of negotiations have been held so far; and

(d) the efforts being made by India to address the demands made by Canada?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Both the countries have agreed on a road map to expedite the process of negotiations, however, the next round *i.e.* 10th round which was to be held in Canada could not be held on account of elections in Canada and lack of traction on some key issues which need to be resolved.

(b) Certain contentious issues in the CEPA negotiations are in the area of finalization of modalities on Services as well as phasing of agreed tariff elimination, especially at entry into force.

(c) Nine Rounds of negotiations have been held till date. The last round was held in New Delhi on 19-20th March, 2015.

(d) The contentious issues are mutually discussed through inter-sessional work and negotiating rounds between both negotiating teams.

Extending export benefits to e-commerce exporters

1308. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exporters exporting through e-commerce are not entitled for any export benefits;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to simplify the Shipping Bill procedure for e-commerce transactions and boost this sector by extending it all export benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) Merchandise Exports