

**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

from India Scheme (MEIS) under the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20, *inter-alia*, incentivizes exporters of specified products exporting to specified countries using e-commerce. Such notified incentives are granted to export of goods falling under the category of handicrafts, handloom products, books/periodicals, leather footwear, toys and customized fashion garments having FOB value up to ₹ 25000 per consignment. Such goods can be exported through Foreign Post Offices at New Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai and by courier through Airports at Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai in manual mode. Government has prescribed simplified form of shipping bill, namely, Courier Shipping Bill (CSB-II) for goods (including e-commerce) for the same.

**Granting status of institute of national importance to IIP**

1309. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) has its limitations in adopting techniques, carrying out research, etc., in view of it not getting the status of institute of national importance;

(b) what steps the Ministry has taken on the demands of IIP industry and also from various quarters for elevating IIP into an institute of national importance;

(c) whether IIP has developed any new technology/technique to dispose packaging waste; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN) (a) and (b) Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP), an autonomous body of the Government, functioning in partnership with the industry, carries out activities in the field of education, training and consultancy for packaging. In the wake of developments in the packaging industry in India, and growing demand of packaging professionals by the packaging industries, the industry has sought the status of Institution of National Importance (INI) for IIP. No specific decision has been taken on the suggestion.

(c) and (d) IIP is involved in research on management of packaging waste and development of an innovative composite material by using natural fiber material along with minimum quantity of polymeric material. The Institute is actively involved in evaluation of quality of various types of materials being developed from the packaging waste like pallets, particle boards etc. in terms of their mechanical properties and in identification of their suitability for packaging application.