

(c) whether there has been a considerable improvement in value addition of manufacturing in year 2015 in comparison to that in 2014 and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the UNIDO International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics 2016, the top ten manufacturers according to share in world Manufacturing Value Added (MVA), at 2010 Constant Prices (for year 2015) are 1. China 2. USA 3. Japan 4. Germany 5. Republic of Korea 6. India 7. Italy 8. France 9. Brazil 10. Indonesia.

As per UNIDO International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics 2015, the top ten manufacturers according to share in world MVA, at 2005 constant prices (for year 2014) were 1. USA 2. China 3. Japan 4. Germany 5. Republic of Korea 6. Italy 7. United Kingdom 8. France 9. India 10. Mexico.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Manufacturing Sector Gross Value Added at Constant (2011-12) basic price has improved from ₹ 15,79,721 crore in 2013-14 to ₹ 16,67,069 crore in 2014-15, which is an increase of 5.5%, as per the press note on First revised estimates of National Income, Consumption Expenditure, Saving and Capital Formation 2014-15 released on 29th January 2016.

Seeking membership of APEC

1127. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India must enhance its trade diplomacy to gain access for trade from India;

(b) whether India needs to up its diplomatic ante to seek membership of the 21 member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum; and

(c) whether Government is considering to take the APEC membership and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) India is engaged with various countries of interest for trade agreements to gain access for trade for Indian commodities/services.

(b) and (c) India had applied for membership of APEC in 1991 on the basis of its geographic location, potential size of the economy and degree of trade interaction with the Asia-Pacific. However, at the 5th APEC Leaders' meeting in Vancouver in

1997, a decision was taken to place a 10 year moratorium on expanding membership which continues informally till date.

India is engaging with APEC member countries to develop a consensus on lifting the informal moratorium on accepting new members and to actively push for India's candidature for membership of APEC.

Ratification of trade facilitation agreement

1128. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is keen to ratify at the earliest the trade facilitation agreement on goods of the World Trade Organisation;

(b) whether the gain from this trade can be huge;

(c) whether the European Union-India Free Trade Agreement needs to be concluded without any further delay; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) India has ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Agreement (WTO and the Instrument of Acceptance for Trade Facilitation Agreement was handed over to WTO Director-General by India on 22 April 2016. India is the 76th WTO member to accept the TFA. The Trade Facilitation Agreement will enter into force once two-thirds of WO members have completed their domestic ratification process.

The Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) aims to expedite the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit. It also sets out measures for effective cooperation between customs and other appropriate authorities on trade facilitation and customs compliance issues. It further contains provisions for technical assistance and capacity building in this area. These objectives are in consonance with India's "*Ease of Doing Business*" initiative. The ratification of the WTO's TFA will help in improving border procedures and also help further India to boost economic growth by reducing trade costs, improve trade flows and reap greater benefits from international trade.

(c) and (d) The India EU BTIA negotiations are underway and 16 rounds of negotiations have been held so far. Recently, two rounds of stocktaking meetings have taken place on 18th January, 2016 and 22nd February, 2016. We are committed to an early and balanced outcome of the negotiations.