

Major objective of the project is to utilize the power of media, web and mobile to reach targeted farmers and improve their ability to negotiate with traders while encouraging active enrolment and involvement of agricultural input providers, warehousing facility providers, logistic service support providers, banks and insurers on the electronic platform, and also to improve food safety and traceability etc.

(c) Implementation of the project involves various phases, the first phase covering 1,000 Chilli farmers of Edlapad Mandal of Guntur district, while 10,000 Chilli farmers of Guntur district and 1000 Turmeric farmers of selected Mandals of Guntur district are included in the second phase. The third phase includes 10,000 Chilli farmers each from Warangal and Khammam districts of Telangana, 10,000 Chilli farmers of Prakasam district, 5,000 Turmeric farmers of Guntur district, and 5,000 Turmeric farmers in Telangana. Currently, the project implementation is in its first phase.

(d) and (e) There is no plan to introduce e-initiatives in other Spice crops at present.

Ratification of WTO's TFA on goods

1929. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to ratify WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) on goods very soon;

(b) to what extent Government has to relax customs rules once TFA is accepted; and

(c) how Government is working with other countries for a TFA in services since 60 per cent of trade constitutes services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) India ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) on goods on 22nd April, 2016.

(b) India is compliant of most of the provisions of TFA. In some areas like Advance ruling, release of goods before final determination of duty etc. certain legislative amendments and changes in procedures are required, for which Government is entitle to transition time.

(c) Services are an important part of India's trade and India is endeavouring to promote and facilitate its services trade by seeking the removal of trade restrictive measures adopted by various countries.