

(c) if so, whether this would adversely affect the exports of ayurvedic products; and

(d) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.VK.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is aware of the certain directives issued by EU for traditional and herbal medicinal products.

(d) As the export of Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani (ASU) drugs to European Union started only 10-12 years ago, the implementation of the proposed directive is likely to have an adverse impact on the marketing of ASU products. During the year 2002-2003, the export of Ayurvedic and Unani medicines (Harmonising System (HS) Code 30039001) to EU-15 was US\$ 5.38 mn, and to EU-25 it was US \$ 5.99 mn.

The Department of Commerce and Department of AYUSH will take up the issue of constituting an Indo-EU bilateral working group to address the issues and the proposal is also being taken up with the India-EU Sub-Commission on trade to be held shortly.

Imports of food items

1177. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have relaxed rules for imports of various food items and exempted them from 100 per cent mandatory sampling with immediate effect;

(b) whether Government have categorized certain food items as 'high risk' and only those would be subjected to 100 per cent sampling test;

(c) if so, the list of high risk food items; and

(d) whether this decision has been taken for cost-cutting and would in no way create health hazards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) to (d) Under the modified procedures for sampling of edible/food products laid down by the Government, a system of 100% sampling of consignment for high risk food items and 5 to 20% for others has been prescribed. The list of high risk food items as notified *vide* Policy Circular No. 25 dated 28.1.2004 and No. 37 dated

[16 August, 2004]

RAJ\YA SABHA

14.6.2004 are available on the DGFT website-www.nic.in/eximpol. The decisions have been taken on the recommendation of the Ministry of Health.

Draft Agreement on Agriculture

1178. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the concerns of India have not been adequately addressed by the latest draft on a framework agreement on agriculture;

(b) if so, Government's reaction at the meeting of the WTO General Council held on July, 27, 2004; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that 650 million Indian farmers would be affected if India is forced to give concessions on allowing such imports of agricultural products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (c) On 1st August, 2004, a *Framework for Establishing Modalities in Agriculture* has been agreed to in the meeting of the General Council of the World Trade Organisation. The elements and principles contained in the Framework duly address India's farm sector interests and concerns, *inter alia*, that trade-distorting domestic subsidies provided to their farm sector largely by the developed countries are substantially reduced, their export subsidies eliminated, and market access opportunities for products of export interest to developing countries improve substantially. Moreover, consistent with the Doha mandate to negotiate on agriculture, any additional commitments, particularly in market access, by developing countries like India should serve to safeguard their food and livelihood security concerns and rural development needs. The negotiations are Scheduled to conclude by December, 2005.

Proposal by Pakistani traders on copyrights

1179. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistani traders have impressed upon Government to jointly fight with Pakistan for their rights relating to the copyright issues during WTO meetings;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and