

Incentives for import of pulses

2627. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of pulses is being encouraged to increase their availability in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for non-availability of those economic incentives to private sector agencies which are available to Government agencies for the import of pulses; and

(d) the reasons for not seeking cooperation of private sector in increasing the availability of pulses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) There is growing demand for pulses in India and the domestic production is unable to satisfy demand. The gap between demand and supply of pulses in our country is, therefore, met through imports of pulses.

(c) and (d) The Government has allowed imports of pulses at zero import duty to facilitate imports by all entities including private sector. There are no specific economic incentives available to Government agencies for import of pulses.

Imposition/lifting of ban on export/import of commodities

†2628. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the commodities on which export and import ban have been imposed or lifted In the country in the last one year, the reasons therefor;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to bring balance In the trade with several neighbouring countries, especially with China;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to check the entry of poor quality products of China in abundance in Indian markets; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (d) the success achieved in bringing trade balance with it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) As on date, barring restrictions on import of milk and milk products from China till 23.6.2017 or until further orders, no ban on export/ import of any other item has been imposed or lifted during the last one year.

(b) Efforts are continuously made to increase overall exports by diversifying the trade basket with emphasis on manufactured goods, services, resolution of market access issues and other non-tariff barriers. This is done through bilateral meetings and institutional dialogues. Indian exporters are encouraged to participate in major trade fairs in China and other countries to show-case Indian products.

(c) Economies today across the globe are highly complex and interdependent. No economy can adopt a closed stance without adversely impacting its citizen in terms of meeting their needs. Imports address situations like shortage/non-availability of items, price/quantity preference of consumers etc. Within this framework, goods are imported into the country subject to all the laws/rules regarding protection of environment, ensuring quality, standard and national security.

Further, the Foreign Trade Policy (2015-2020) lays down that whatever Domestic Laws/ Rules/ Orders/ regulations / Technical specifications/ environmental/ safety and health norms are applicable on domestically produced goods; the same shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to imports. India has an elaborate and robust legal framework and institutional set up to protect its environment, life and health of its people, plants and animals. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified the Hazardous Waste Rules 2008 for environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) applicable to domestic goods are also applicable to imported goods. For imported food and edible items, Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA), 2006 and Rules frame there under are also applicable.

India and China are members of the WTO and, therefore, any restrictions imposed on trade needs to be WTO complaint. Trade remedy measures imposed on China include prohibition of import of milk and milk products till 23.6.2017 or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

(d) Details of the merchandise imports, exports and the trade deficit with China during the last three years are given below:-

Bilateral Trade between India and China 2013-14 to 2015-16

(Value in US\$ Billion)

Year	Import	Export	Total Trade	Trade Deficit
2013-14	51.03	14.82	65.85	36.21
2014-15	60.41	11.93	72.34	48.48
2015-16	61.70	9.02	70.73	52.68

Source: DGCI&S

Decline in growth of core sectors

2629. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth in the core sectors has come down during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the action taken by Government to encourage the core sector's growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) As per the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI), the cumulative growth rate of ICI during January-June, 2015 was 1.9% which has increased to 5.2% during January-June, 2016.

(c) The Government is continuously taking steps to encourage the core sector as well as overall industrial production and growth. These *inter-alia*, include Startup India initiative as well as 'Make in India' programme under which 25 thrust sectors to provide a major push to manufacturing in India have been identified. Steps have been taken to create ease of doing business, including setting up of an Investor Facilitation Cell, launch of e-biz Portal and liberalising policy for industrial license for defence industries. The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy and procedures have been simplified and liberalised progressively. For creation of state-of-art infrastructure, Government is implementing Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project. In addition, a number of other industrial corridor projects have also been conceptualized.