

compared to last year, including free admission to children below 12 years (not requiring a separate entry permit) etc.

(b) No. Sir., Till date no trader (both Indian and Foreign) has claimed compensation from Government for a dip in sale due to demonetization of currency.

(c) Doesn't arise.

Job opportunities through FDI

† 2416. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of FDI received in the last two years and the number of job opportunities increased on account of it in the country;

(b) the steps taken by Government to increase the job opportunities and the results achieved thereof; and

(c) the reasons for no increase in job opportunities despite better economic performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) A total of US\$ 100.61 billion of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been received during the last two years *i.e.* F.Y. 2014-15 & 2015-16. Data is not maintained centrally for assessing the impact of FDI on the job opportunities. However, FDI directly supplements the domestic capital and brings technology and skill in the sectors of direct entry. It also has indirect multiplier effects on other related sectors thereby stimulating economic growth leading to increased production, exports and job opportunities.

(b) and (c) Government has taken various steps for generating employment in the country like encouraging private sector of economy, fast tracking various projects involving substantial investment and increasing public expenditure on schemes like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) scheme, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (Day-NULM) and Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana.

Government has also decided to strategically promote labour-intensive manufacturing and expand employment opportunities by promoting tourism and agro-based industries and implemented the National Career Service having a portal

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(www.ncs.gov.in) for online registration and posting of jobs for job-seekers and provide other employment related services.

Further, the Government reviews FDI policy on an ongoing basis and significant changes are made in the FDI policy on different sectors, from time to time, to ensure that India remains increasingly attractive and investor-friendly investment destination. 'Make in India' (Mil) initiative launched globally on 25.9.2014 aims at promoting India as an important investment destination and a global hub for manufacturing, design and innovation. GST legislation is one of the most significant structural reforms in the country. This integrates a number of central and state taxes into one resulting in creation of entire country as a common economic market. These policy reforms will provide ease of doing business and will act as a great catalyst for inviting more foreign investment, generate increased economic activity and job creation in the country.

Increase in trade deficit

2417. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that trade deficit of the country has gone up from 9.6 billion dollars in October last year to 10.1 billion dollars in October, 2016;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the increase in trade deficit is mainly on account of unprecedented rise in gold imports during the corresponding period; and

(c) if so, the action Government proposes to reduce the trade deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The trade deficit on account of merchandise trade of the country has gone up from 9.7 US\$ billions in October last year to 10.4 US\$ billions in October, 2016. However, the overall trade deficit including trade in services has decreased by 52.91% in April-October 2016-17 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) Total trade deficit and value of import of gold during October, 2016 are as follows:—

(in US\$ billions)				
Period	Import value of gold	% growth in import of gold	Trade Deficit	% growth in trade deficit
October 2015	1.7	—	9.7	—
October 2016*	3.5	108.4	10.4	7.4

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (* Provisional)