

- (i) reduction in the number of documents required for exports and imports to three each.
- (ii) online filing of import and export declarations and manifests with the provision of digital signatures.
- (iii) electronic messaging system between shipping lines and custodians for electronic delivery order has been introduced.
- (iv) replacement of the Terminal handling receipts with a web-based e-Form 13 at JNPT Gateway Terminals India and Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal.
- (v) implementation of the Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade (SWIFT) by Customs by integrating Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Animal Quarantine, Plant Quarantine, Drug Controller and Wildlife Control Bureau with Customs portal.
- (vi) extension of 24x7 Customs clearance facilities to 19 seaports and 17 air cargo complexes.
- (vii) setting up of a Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee at every major customs seaport and airport for speedy clearance of import and export of goods.
- (viii) enhanced coverage of the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) to all regions for notified products;
- (ix) provision of the facility of duty free import of inputs and machinery for export production;
- (x) reduction in cost of capital through interest equalization of 3% on all exports from the MSME sector and notified exports from other sectors;
- (xi) promotion of product standards, packaging and branding of Indian products.

Contraction of goods' exports

811. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's goods exports have contracted regularly since December, 2014, barring a marginal expansion in June this year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India's export slowdown may have bottomed out and the recovery in outbound shipments is expected to be slow but steady in the coming months; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that a slump in commodity prices, economic slowdown in key markets and an appreciation of the real exchange rate of the rupee have been

the reasons for the slowdown of India's exports along with lack of competitiveness in certain segments for the export debacle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Goods exports contracted during the period December 2014-May 2016. Goods exports further contracted during the months of July and August 2016. However, Goods exports registered positive growth in June, September and October 2016.

(b) Even though the goods exports have registered positive growth in last 2 consecutive months of September and October 2016, it is not possible to predict if the export slowdown has bottomed out as the future exports will depend on a large number of factors related to the global economy.

(c) Sharp fall in prices of major commodities like crude and petroleum products, gold, copper, and iron ore etc.; economic slowdown in developed and emerging economies; depreciation of Euro, Rouble, Brazilian Real, and Yuan etc. against rupee and increase in competition in sectors like textile and clothing, leather, engineering are major reasons for decline in exports.

Loss of revenue under MEIS

812. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is losing revenue under Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) to the tune of ₹ 23,500 crores annually;

(b) what are the reasons that in spite of MEIS, exports are not going up as expected;

(c) whether it is also a fact that sluggish exports are also due to failure to bring in reforms in labour laws and non implementation of ₹6,000 crore package to garment sector; and

(d) if so, how much time will Government take to notify the package and bring in labour reforms to push exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Under the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-2020, the objective of Merchandise exports from India Scheme (MEIS) is to offset infrastructural inefficiencies and associated costs involved in exporting goods from