

Domicile certificates to west Pakistan refugees

*75. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to issue domicile certificates to West Pakistan refugees who are registered with the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir which will help them in getting Government jobs and established them as Indian citizens;

(b) whether this move of the State Government has been opposed by Kashmir-centric parties and separatist groups; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU): (a) to (c) The State Government of Jammu and Kashmir has reported that there is no such proposal at present to grant domicile certificates to West Pakistan refugees.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Growth in exports**

†637. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a growth in exports has been registered in recent times;

(b) if so, since when this growth has been recorded;

(c) whether Government has formulated a draft plan to promote exports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) As per the export data available upto November, 2016, the India's exports have registered a positive growth since September 2016 in US\$ terms continuously with respect to corresponding month in the previous year.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken following measures to promote the country's exports:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (i) The New Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20) was announced on 1st April, 2015 with a focus on supporting both manufacturing and services exports.
- (ii) The Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) was introduced in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 on April 1, 2015 with 4914 tariff lines at 8 digit levels. MEIS aims to incentivize export of merchandise which is produced/manufactured in India. Rewards @ 2-5% under MEIS are payable as a percentage of realized FOB value of covered exports, by way of the MEIS duty credit scrip, which are transferable and can also be used for payment of a number of duties including the basic customs duty. At present, 7914 tariff lines at 8 digit HS Codes are covered under MEIS Scheme.
- (iii) The Government launched Services Exports from India Scheme (SEIS) in the FTP 2015-2020. The Scheme provided rewards to service providers of notified services who are providing service from India.
- (iv) The Government is implementing the Niryat Bandhu Scheme with an objective to reach out to the new and potential exporters including exporters from Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and mentor them through orientation programmes, counselling sessions, individual facilitation, etc., on various aspects of foreign trade for being able to get into international trade and boost exports from India.
- (v) By way of trade facilitation and enhancing the ease of doing business, Government reduced the number of mandatory documents required for exports and imports to three each, which is comparable with international benchmarks. The trade community can file applications online for various trade related schemes. Online payment of application fees through Credit/Debit Cards and electronic funds transfer from 53 Banks has been put in place.
- (vi) Interest Equalization Scheme on pre and post shipment credit launched to provide cheaper credit to exporters.
- (vii) Further, the Government continues to provide the facility of access to duty free raw materials and capital goods for exports through schemes like Advance Authorization, Duty Free Import Authorization (DFIA), Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) and drawback/refund of duties.

Study on export competitiveness of States

638. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made any study about the export competitiveness of various States of the country;