

restriction on the import of natural rubber by restricting the port of entry to Chennai and Nhava Sheva (Jawaharlal Nehru Port) since 20th January, 2016.

Redevelopment plan of Pragati Maidan

1466. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the redevelopment plan of Pragati Maidan has been approved by Government; and

(b) if so, the details of the plan investment and the time-limit to complete this redevelopment plan of Pragati Maidan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A cost of ₹ 2,254 crore has been approved by the Government for completion of phase-I of the project, which as per ITPO's estimate is expected upto May, 2019.

Trade deal sought by WTO on green products

1467. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Trade Organisation has sought trade deal on green products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has responded to the request of the above by the WTO; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) Under Para 31(iii) of the Doha Ministerial Declaration dated 14.11.2001, WTO Member countries agreed to initiate negotiations on the reduction or, as appropriate, elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to environmental goods and services, with a view to enhancing the mutual supportiveness of trade and environment.

Accordingly, multilateral negotiations were initiated in the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment-Special Session (CTE-SS) with its first meeting held on 22.03.2002. India actively participated in these negotiations, which continued intensively for about a decade. The multilateral negotiations on environmental goods, however,

lost momentum in the second decade of this century, due to lack of convergence among WTO Members.

On 8 July 2014, a group of WTO Members launched plurilateral negotiations for the establishment of an Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA). The negotiations seek to eliminate tariffs on a number of environment-related products. Participants, currently eighteen WTO Members, have encouraged all other Members to join this plurilateral initiative.

India has not joined the above said plurilateral negotiations on environmental goods. India views that these negotiations are not taking place under the auspices of the WTO. In the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment, India has expressed concerns on the proliferation of plurilateral agreements, which would undermine multilateral efforts.

Proposal to free up FDI on retail

1468. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for freeing up of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in retail is under active consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time-line fixed for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) The Government reviews FDI Policy on various sectors including retail on an ongoing basis and significant changes are made in the FDI Policy regime, from time to time, to ensure that India remains increasingly attractive and investor-friendly investment destination.

Meeting of trade development and promotion council

1469. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN:

SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

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

(a) whether 2nd Meeting of Council of Trade Development and Promotion has recently taken place in New Delhi, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the subjects discussed in the meeting and the hurdles in trade and infrastructure gaps that are affecting the country's exports;

(c) the views expressed by various participants for augmenting exports; and