

security situation in the country is under control due to the efforts of the Central and State Governments.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There has been improvement in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) scenario in the country. Comparison of violence data of 2013 with 2016 reflects that there has been an overall 07% reduction in violent incidents (1136 to 1048) and 30% reduction (397 to 278) in LWE related deaths. Over the same period there has been a 43% reduction (115 to 65) in casualties to Security Forces personnel and 122% increase (100 to 122) in elimination of armed Maoists cadres.

---

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

### Discussion on services trade with WTO chief

2237. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the services trade was on top of India's agenda during World Trade Organisations chief's visit to the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government held any discussion with the chief of WTO on the above issue; and

(d) if so, the deliberations made in the said meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) During the visit of Mr. Roberto Azevêdo, Director General, World Trade Organization to India in February 2017, a meeting was held in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, during which Services Trade and other issues of India's interest were discussed. India has recently tabled a proposal in the WTO for an Agreement on Trade Facilitation in Services (TFS). A team of capital based officers have also visited Geneva for discussion on the issues of India's interest, including the TFS.

### Demand of interest subsidy by exporters

2238. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exporters have demanded an Export Development Fund to help marketing of the products of small exporters in global markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the exporters have demanded 3 per cent interest subsidy to merchant exporters and increase in the cash withdrawal ceiling; and

(d) whether many countries supported aggressive marketing aimed at the limited orders available following a global trade slowdown?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Though there is a demand by exporters to create Export Development Fund, Department of Commerce is already running two schemes *i.e.* Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAI) and Marketing Development Assistance Scheme (MDA) for development and promotional activities to promote exports from India and marketing assistance in foreign markets by providing financial support to exporters through Export Promotion Councils/ Trade Bodies and other eligible agencies including MSMEs. There is no proposal to create Export Development Fund. However, there is already an Export Development Fund [EDF] created and administered by EXIM Bank under the provisions of the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981. Under this fund, assistance is provided to Indian firms in their globalization efforts by locating overseas distributor(s)/ buyer(s)/ partner(s).

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government has introduced the Interest Equalisation Scheme on Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit with effect from 1.4.2015. The scheme is available to manufacturers for all exports under 416 specified tariff lines [at ITC (HS) Codes at 4 digit level] and to exports made by manufacturers in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises across all ITC (HS) Codes. The rate of interest equalisation is 3% per annum. This scheme provides the facility of affordable credit to exporters and enables them to be more competitive.

Though there was a demand for extending the benefit of 3% interest equalisation to Merchant Exporters, the benefit of 3% interest equalisation was not extended to Merchant Exporters as a policy decision. No cash withdrawal facility is available under Interest Equalisation Scheme.

(d) As such there is no information available with the Government.

#### **Expiration of license for import of restricted goods**

2239. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) if Bill of Entry of a restricted good has been filed by importer before expiry of license but original license is lost during custom clearance process and license gets expired during this process whether goods can be confiscated by customs in