THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) India being global and a growing market is increasingly facing challenges to the domestic industries. The ways to protect these domestic industries is by making them competitive and having appropriate standards to provide fair competition. In case GOI considers any measure as inconsistent with the WTO agreement and impacting our trade interest, it takes up the matter in the appropriate forum including the bilateral and multilateral forum (WTO Committee).

To safeguard the interest of domestic industries it has also taken a number of measures including, bringing in regulations to set standards for a number of products to discipline imports, strictly impose conditions of rules of origin, preference for domestic products including those of MSMEs in Government Procurement etc. One of the recent initiatives is "Make in India" initiatives which is meant to provide greater push to domestic manufacturing through a balanced and holistic approach.

Impact of demonetization

3041. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the commerce and industry sectors have been badly affected due to demonetisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the special measures taken/being taken by Government to safeguard the commerce and industry sectors from the impact of demonetisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) As given in Table below, the monthly merchandise data on exports has exhibited continuous positive growth since September, 2016 to February, 2017.

Industrial Performance measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) has shown erratic behaviour in terms of growth rate since September, 2016 as given in table below:

Monthly Merchandise Export and IIP (% Growth)
for September, 2016 — February, 2017

Month	Export	IIP
September	4.62	0.7
October	9.59	-1.9

Month	Export	IIP
November	2.29	5.7#
December	5.72	-0.1#
January	4.32	2.7#
February	17.48*	-

*Quick Estimates (QE) and # Provisional

Source: (1) Merchandise Export (Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Kolkata)
(2) IIP (Central Statistics Office)

(c) A meeting was convened by Department of Commerce on 21st November, 2016 with Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) to assess the impact of demonetization on the country's exports. A similar meeting was also convened by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to assess the impact of demonetization on 24th November, 2016.

The Government has received feedback from industry and trade associations. In order to mitigate their problem of liquidity crunch, the Government has taken several measures such as: all EPCs have been advised to go cashless in respect of their payments; the coverage of the loans under the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) implemented by Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) has been increased from ₹ 1 crore to ₹ 2 crore; the Credit Guarantee Scheme has also been extended to loans for MSEs by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs); and Department of Financial Services (DFS) has issued an advisory to Banks regarding raising of working capital/cash credit limit for MSEs. Apart from this, as per the Reserve Bank of India's Notification dated 30th January, 2017 the traders with current/overdrafts/cash credit accounts may now withdraw without any limit.

Foodgrain exports to the UAE

3042. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is considering special farms and infrastructure for foodgrain exports to the UAE;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreements have been executed in this regard between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?