

- (v) India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)
- (vi) India-New Zealand Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)
- (vii) India-Australia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)
- (viii) BIMSTEC Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)
- (ix) India-Canada Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
- (x) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement

(b) and (c) The agreements are likely to provide opportunities for generating economic growth and employment as well as increase mutual investment flows.

Stagnant growth of manufacturing sector

3045. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that average per capita income in non-agricultural occupations is more than four times than in agriculture;

(b) if so, the steps taken to transfer labour force engaged in agricultural and allied activities to higher income industrial and services sector to bring down per capita income gap between non-agricultural and agricultural occupations;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the growth of manufacturing sector is stagnant; and

(d) if so, the measures taken to boost manufacturing sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Central Statistics Office under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has informed that the relevant information is not maintained by it.

(b) to (d) The growth of Manufacturing Sector measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for last three years and the current year are given below in the table:-

Index of Industrial Production (Base: 2004-05)

	Year on Year Growth in %			
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (Apr-Jan)
Manufacturing Sector	-0.8	2.3	2.0	-0.2*

* Provisional Figures

Source- Central Statistics Office (CSO)

The Government is implementing several programmes that aim at bringing about overall improvement in the quality of life of the people in rural India who are predominantly dependent on agriculture sector. In addition to this, the Government has been taking various initiatives through different Ministries/Departments to promote manufacturing sector and employment, including in rural areas. These *inter alia*, include the following:

- (i) Make in India initiative aims to make India a hub for manufacturing, design and innovation. It focusses on infrastructure, simplified processes, job creation, skill development and fostering innovation in select thrust sectors.
- (ii) Startup India initiative aims to build a strong eco-system for nurturing innovation and Startups in the country to drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities.
- (iii) Significant changes have been made in the FDI policy regime to ensure that India remains attractive and an investor friendly destination. Government has put in place a comprehensive FDI policy regime, bringing more activities under automatic route, increasing sectoral caps, and easing conditionalities.
- (iv) To ensure availability of state of art physical infrastructure for the industry, the Government is building industrial corridors along the dedicated freight corridors. In addition, focus is on strengthening existing infrastructure in roads, railways, ports and waterways across the country.
- (v) A number of measures have been undertaken to ease business environment. Industrial licensing has been simplified and liberalized with a large number of components of Defence Products' list excluded from its purview. Various Central Government and State Government services are being integrated on a single window eBiz portal. The process of obtaining environment and forest clearances has been made online. 24x7 operations have been introduced at 17 Sea ports and 18 airports. A single window for import clearances called Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade (SWIFT) has been set up. An Investor Facilitation Cell has been created under the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency 'Invest India' to guide, assist and handhold investors during the entire life-cycle of business. The State Governments have also been brought on board to expand the coverage of these efforts.
- (vi) The Ministry of MSME implements several schemes to promote output and employment among MSMEs. A Scheme for Promotion of Innovation,

Rural Industries and Entrepreneurship is implemented to provide support to MSMEs. Capital subsidy is provided under the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme. Scope and coverage of the Credit Guarantee Trust Fund for MSEs Scheme has been expanded to improve access to credit. Support to self-employment is provided under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme. The National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme aims to promote efficient manufacturing, technology upgradation and quality certification for MSMEs.

- (vii) Measures are ongoing to channelize the efforts and provide impetus to the skill development ecosystem with a view to improve employability of workers/unemployed in India. The Skill India initiative and its various components such as 'Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)' and 'Skill Loan Scheme' synergize the existing efforts in Make in India by aligning skills to the industrial requirements. They also aim to tap India's comparative advantage in labour intensive sectors such as textiles and leather.
- (viii) Sectoral Schemes like Integrated textile parks, for handloom, silk and jute sectors in the Ministry of Textiles; leather clusters, skill upgradation for people in leather and footwear sector; scheme for mega food parks etc. aim to increase employment generation

Slump in wheat exports due to import duty

3046. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the data pertaining to wheat exports in the last three years and the current year in the country and specifically Punjab;
- (b) whether Government has taken cognizance of the opinion of experts' that the Zero Import Duty on wheat has led to slump in exports;
- (c) what are the effects of Zero Import Duty on wheat on the farmers in the country; and
- (d) whether Government is planning to compensate the farmers who suffer/have suffered losses due to the aforementioned policy, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The data pertaining to wheat exports in the last three years and the current year in the country is given below. However, the State-wise export data in respect of wheat is not maintained.