

India's share in World Trade

1939. SHRI BALAWANT *alias* BAL APTE: SHRI
RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: SHRI
EKANATH K. THAKUR: SHRI SANJAY
NIRUPAM:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India's share in the world exports which was 1.5 per cent at Independence, has, as per the latest records, come down to mere 0.8 per cent;

(b) if so, whether Government have lately gone into the causes of such a drastic decline;

(c) what are the main items the exports whereof has largely suffered; and

(d) whether any new policy or strategy has been worked out to restore India's due place in the world market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) to (c) India's share in world exports declined after Independence as world exports increased rapidly. However, the decline was contained by the 1980s and thereafter there has been an increase in India's share in world exports. According to the Economic survey, India's share in world exports rose from 0.6% in 1995 to 0.7% in 2000. In 2002, India attained 0.8% share in world exports. The growth in exports has been broadly maintained in 2003, resulting in retention of India's share in world exports at 0.8%. Thus there was no decline in India's share in world exports in the recent past.

(d) Yes Sir. A Medium Term Export Strategy which is co-terminus with the 10th Plan period (2002-07) was announced in January, 2002 with the objective of enhancing India's exports and achieving 1% share in world exports. A number of programmes/schemes have been launched which include schemes like Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure (ASIDE), establishing Agri Export Zones, Market Access initiative, strengthening "Focus LAC" programme, introducing 'Focus Africa' programmes, etc. In the Exim Policy, 2003-04 and Exim Facilitation Measures announced in January, 2004, besides, the focus on service

[23 August, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

exports and policies to strengthen Special Economic Zones (SEZs), a new programme called "Focus CIS" has been introduced. Thus, measures are being taken from time to time to increase India's exports.

Indo-EU Free Trade Agreement

1940. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Indian Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry has suggested setting up of a joint study group to look into the feasibility of Free Trade Agreement between India and the European Union;

(b) whether this move is aimed at enhancing and deepening India's trade relations with the EU;

(c) if so, whether any concrete agreement in this regard has been reached; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) It is learnt from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) that in a recent press release it has stated that in order to enhance and deepen India's trade relations with the European Union, it is in favour of setting up of a joint study group to look into the feasibility of a Free Trade Agreement between the two sides.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Trade pact with Singapore

1941. DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI MATI AMBIKA SONI:

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