

(b) the number of times the goods for imports and exports were reviewed during the last three years;

(c) whether Government is contemplating putting a break on the import of processed items, sesame seeds, edible oil, pulses, fresh fruits, etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of its likely impact on the condition of employment and foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) Export and Import of goods are regulated as per the provisions of Foreign Trade Policy (FTP). Import/export policy on goods are covered under four categories namely, 'prohibited', 'restricted', 'trading through State Trading Enterprises' and 'free'. In addition, there are some goods which though are 'free' for import/export, but subjected to conditions stipulated in other Acts or laws for the time being in force. Further, Government also prescribes such other conditions/restrictions, as deemed fit, to regulate export/import of specified goods/commodities *e.g.* minimum export/import price; quantitative restrictions; port restrictions; quality/standard parameters etc. EXIM Policy of the Government is a dynamic process which is changed/modified in response to evolving international scenario and domestic conditions. Any change in EXIM Policy of an item is brought about after due consultation/review by the concerned line Ministry/Department.

ITC (HS), 2017 contains more than 11000 tariff lines and changes in EXIM policy of items or modifications in conditions of importability/exportability of items are brought about through notifications, as published in the Official Gazette and also uploaded on the DGFT's website (www.dgft.gov.in). Details of such reviews in last 3 years are as tabulated below:

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
No. of Changes	31	26	28

(c) and (d) Changes in the import/export policy is an on-going process; Government's policy interventions depend on domestic and global demand-supply situations.

Economic reforms and 'Ease of doing business'

2575. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of economic reforms undertaken by Government in pursuance of the initiative of 'ease of doing business';

- (b) what new opportunities have been offered to the MNCs in furtherance thereof;
- (c) whether there is any mechanism by which Government plans to keep a track of each such single reform, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government has undertaken advanced planning to reach a certain mile stone by the end of 2030, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry has taken a series of measures to improve the business regulatory environment in the country. DIPP has been closely working with Central Government Ministries/Departments as well as States and Union Territories (UTs) to help them identify constraints in doing business and improving the overall business environment in the country. The details of reforms undertaken in connection with Ease of Doing Business are given in Statement (*See below*). The reduction in regulatory burden will benefit all businesses including MNCs.

The implementation of reform measures under Ease of Doing Business is frequently reviewed at the level of Prime Minister's Office and Cabinet Secretariat. DIPP coordinates with Ministries/Departments of Government of India, States/UTs, World Bank and other related agencies.

Statement

Details of reforms undertaken by the country towards easing the business environment in the country

1. Starting A Business

- Simplified Proforma for Incorporating Company Electronically (SPICe) form has been introduced to make incorporation of companies possible within one working day by imbibing 5 services *viz.* Name reservation, Director Identification Number (DIN), Incorporation, PAN and TAN. Earlier this used to take 30 days (1 day for DIN, 7 days for name reservation, 5 days for company incorporation, 10 days for PAN and 7 days for TAN registration as per Doing Business Report (DBR)-2017). This has also reduced the fees for filing the incorporation form from INR 2000 to INR 500.
- Until March, 2017, the Government allocated PAN and TAN to 19,704 new corporate entities, wherein PAN was allotted within 4 hours to 95.63% of the 10,894 newly incorporated companies and TAN was allotted to 99.73% applicants.

- The Companies (Amendment) Act, 2015 has eliminated the need of a common company seal for incorporation.
- Value Added Tax (VAT) Registration is now processed within 24 hour using electronic application and does not require any inspection. Earlier this used to take 9-10 days in Delhi and Mumbai and also involved inspection. As per the January, 2017 data 79% of VAT registrations in Mumbai were done in a single day.
- In Mumbai, registering under Shops and Establishments has been made online without any physical inspection and registration is given within a day. 92% of the registration was given within a single day in January, 2017. Earlier it used to take 2-6 days as per DBR 2017.
- Registration with Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) and Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has been made real-time by eliminating all physical touch-points. Inspection procedures associated with both procedures have been dispensed with.
- "Shram Suvidha" Portal has been launched to issue Unique Labour Identification Number (LIN), submission of common electronic returns under 16 Labour Acts and facilitate risk based inspections.

2. Construction Permits

- Both Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) and Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) have reduced the number of procedures from 42 and 29 respectively to only 8. Also, the time taken in giving the various approvals during the construction cycle of a building has been brought down to 60 days from last year's 213 days in Delhi and 164 days in Mumbai.
- Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has notified the Unified Building Bye-laws. The unified building bye laws have provision of deemed approval of sanctioning building plans within 30 days.
- Both MCD and MCGM has introduced digital signing of building permit application, as well as maps, thereby eliminating need of physical submission of documents. The manual application for grant of construction permits has been discontinued.
- MCGM and MCD Single Window Application System have a provision for online transfer of application and receipt of NOC.
- There is an online common occupancy-cum-completion requirement form (COCCRF) which captures requirement of all agencies for granting

OCC. This certificate is to be granted mandatorily within 22 days (15 days for inspection + 07 days for processing by MCD).

- MCD has completed the process of single window approval by integrating with internal Departments as well as external Departments like Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), Delhi Fire Services, Delhi Urban Arts Commission (DUAC), Airports Authority of India (AAI) and National Monument Authority (NMA) through a common application form. NOC from Labour Department of Delhi Government is not required if no manufacturing activity is being undertaken in the building.
- Infrastructure charges have been abolished by Delhi Jal Board (DJB) for commercial/industrial connections. The development charges for commercial and industrial water connections up to 50 sq. m is INR 45000 and above 50 sq. m is INR 0.5 Million (1 lakh). No NOC is required from DJB for building plan approval.
- MCGM has operationalized online building plan approval system with integration of all internal/external agencies. Applicant is only required to submit Common Application Form (CAF) which captures the requirements of Municipal Corporation and that of all internal/external agencies like AAI, NMA, Fire, storm water drain, sewage, Tree Authority, Revenue Department, etc.
- CAF provides an online calculator on the website to calculate fees and charges for the building proponent. Provision has been made for online payment of all fees/charges to MCGM. This is transferred to concerned agencies through e-payment.
- Time-frame for building plan approval has been fixed for 30 days, inspection for 7 days and OCC for 22 days, in all less than 60 days. There is a provision under Maharashtra State Right to Service Act, 2015 to ensure that such time commitments are adhered to, else the concerned officers are to be penalized under law. In Mumbai, the building completion certificate and occupancy certificate can now be processed simultaneously through single-window approval system.
- The Development Plan of Mumbai along with all plots has been mapped on Geographical Information System (GIS) platform and the requirement for NOC from different agencies like AAI, NMA, etc. as Colour Coded Zonal Maps (CCZM) and have been superimposed on GIS Map of Mumbai. Hence, for every plot, building proponent can know which parts of common application form (CAF) is to be filled up. No NOC is required if the building area falls outside CCZM of any agency.

- Provisions have been introduced in the building regulations to ensure that parties (architect, engineer, construction company etc.) involved in the construction process are held legally liable for defects such as structural flaws or problems in the building once it is in use.
- It has been mandated that any party (architect, engineer, construction company etc.) involved in the construction process is legally required to obtain a latent defect liability or decennial (10 years) liability—insurance policy to cover possible structural flaws or problems in the building once it is in use.
- MCD has introduced system of risk based classification in the amended UBBL for all categories. These classifications are used for fast-pacing the building plan approval, inspection and grant of occupancy-cum-completion certificate (OCC).

3. **Getting Electricity**

- Owing to the efforts of Ministry of Power and Government of NCT of Delhi and Maharashtra, rank in ‘Getting Electricity’ indicator leaped from 137 in DBR 2015 to 26 in DBR 2017. A jump of 111 ranks.
- Number of procedures for obtaining an electricity connection reduced from 5 to 3, namely:
 - Online submission of application to utility and conduct site inspection.
 - Load sanction and demand note generation.
 - Utility does external connection and installs meter.
- Online application for connections above 100 KVA mandatory in Maharashtra and Delhi. Now, it takes only 15 days to get an electricity connection.
 - Tata Power has issued 250+ new connections above 50 KVA and 85000+ new connections below 50 KVA in less than 15 days in the last one year.
 - Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) has issued 40+ new connections above 50 KVA and 4900+ new connections below 50 KVA in less than 18 days in the last one year.
- Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) has rationalized LT and HT tariff thereby allowing LT connections up to 150 KVA.
- NOC/Consent to Establish is not required for getting industrial electricity connection for setting up new industries and projects.

- Amendments in Central Regulatory Authority regulation has been done to allow installation of transformers up to 500 KVA on double pole structure.
- Amendments in Central Regulatory Authority notification to waive off electrical approval for 11 KV installations carried out by DISCOMs and allowing self-certification by DISCOMs engineers.
- Supply Code Regulation and Standard of Performance (SOP) regulations have been modified by DERC and MERC to complete the process within 15 days.
- Automated systems to monitor outages implemented.

4. **Trading Across Borders**

- Government has made only 3 documents mandatory for export and import which has made the process simpler and easier. There is significant reduction in time from 111 hours to 4 hours for imports and from 34 hours to 4 hours for exports after Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) implemented Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade (SWIFT).
- The launch of the Customs Electronic Commerce Interchange Gateway (ICEGATE) portal has allowed e-filing of integrated customs declaration, bill of entry and the shipping bill. ICEGATE also facilitates data and communication exchanges between applicants and customs.
- Other relevant developments include expanding the number of 24x7 customs clearance facilities, introducing changes to the period of warehousing, implementing an electronic messaging system between shipping lines and custodians for electronic delivery orders and reducing the number of required documents. This reform applies to both Mumbai and Delhi. 24x7 Customs clearance facility is available at 19 seaports and 17 Air Cargo complexes.
- CBEC has implemented Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade (SWIFT) on the ICEGATE portal by integrating 6 other Departments viz. FSSAI, Animal Quarantine, Plant Quarantine, Drug Controller, Wildlife Control Bureau and Textile Committee for exports and imports. Also, online message exchange system under single window between Customs' ICEGATE and Plant Quarantine Information System (PQIS) has been implemented for import clearances of agricultural commodities.
- CBEC has merged the two facilitation schemes namely Accredited Client Programme (ACP) and Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) programme

into a combined three-tier AEO programme to further provide facilitation/benefits to the exporters/importers for efficient custom clearance based on their compliance history.

- Customs' risk management system has been extended to other regulatory agencies to ensure risk-based inspection.
- Terminal handling receipts have been eliminated from Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal, Gateway Terminals India and Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal by web based e-form 13.
- Filing of import and export declarations and manifests has been made online with digital signature. Importers, exporters using services of Customs Brokers, shipping lines and airlines can file customs documents under digital signature mandatorily.
- The system of physical control and locking of public and private warehouses by Customs has been dispensed with and replaced by record based controls.
- The Import Data Processing and Management System (IDPMS) has also been launched to facilitate efficient data processing for payment of imports and effective monitoring.
- The port has reduced the "Gate in" time period for export containers from 5 days to 4 days which will further reduce export dwell time by another 24hrs.
- Indian Customs has done away with routine print-outs of several documents related to customs clearance including GAR 7 Forms/TR 6 Challans, TP copy, Exchange Control Copy of Bill of Entry and Shipping Bill, and Export Promotion copy of Shipping Bill.

5. Resolving Insolvency

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 was enacted as a law on 28th May, 2016.
- All the elements of the corporate insolvency eco-system, namely,
 - the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT),
 - the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT),
 - the Insolvency Professionals (IP),
 - the Insolvency Professional Agency (IPA),
 - the Insolvency Professional Entity (IPE), and
 - the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

have been made operational

- Eleven benches of the NCLT, approximately 1000 Insolvency Professionals, 3 IPAs and 2 IPEs are in operation
- The corporate insolvency provisions of the Code commenced w.e.f. 01.12.2016 and liquidation provisions w.e.f. 15.12.2016.

6. Enforcing Contracts

- On 7th January, 2016, the Maharashtra High Court established Commercial Division benches and Commercial Appellate Division benches under the High Court.
- Commercial divisions and appellate divisions in Delhi High Court have been established.
- The Arbitration and Conciliation Act has been amended to reduce the time taken in arbitration proceedings and grounds on which an award may be challenged.
- National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) was opened to general public on 19th September, 2015. NJDG is a national data warehouse for case data including case registration, cause list, case status and orders/judgments of courts across the country till District Level Courts.

7. Registering Property

- Integration of Sub Registrars' offices with the Land Records Department has been completed. Registration data is being shared with the Land Records Department as part of the LR-SRO linkage under the National Land Records Modernization Programme.
- The iSarita system available in all SR offices has enabled online registrations in Mumbai as well as rest of Maharashtra. iSarita is available over MPLS VPN connections in the SR offices.
- For citizens, various aspects of the registration process have been made available online:
 - (a) Citizens can review the property details using e-Search facility,
 - (b) Citizens can carry out data entry in the system before going to the SR offices using the Public Data Entry portal,
 - (c) Appointment slots can also be booked using the eStepIn system, and
 - (d) make online payment using GRAS.

- The grievance management system (a single window service portal) has already been implemented by Government of Maharashtra - called "Aaple Sarkar" portal. The Land Records (Cadastral mapping agency) related grievances are reported through "Aaple Sarkar" portal to the Land Records Department.
- Documents of last 30 years have been scanned and are available in eSearch; mortgages against properties are also available in eSearch. Negative property list is available in iSarita and the system issues alerts.
- Year-wise historical statement for number of documents registered and revenue collected is publically available.
- All land parcel maps are already surveyed as a part of City Survey under section 122 and section 126 of MLRC 1966 and property cards (RoR) are present in Digital form for all privately held land plots.
- Necessary amendment has been made to mandate the adjudication of the cases/disputes with regard to land within one year.
- In Mumbai, Service delivery standards have been introduced to provide maps within a specific time-frame through an online portal.
- In Mumbai, title search can be conducted online without requirement of any physical visit.
- In Delhi, an electronic database for recording boundaries, checking points and providing cadastral information has been completed.
- Property tax dues can be accessed online free of cost by registered users (property owners) through Property Identity Number (PID).
- Online database has been developed for checking for encumbrances (liens, mortgages, restrictions and the like).
- In Delhi, grievances related to land can be made online on Department of Revenue's website through Registration Related Monitoring System.

8. **Getting Credit**

- SARFAESI (Central Registry) Rules, 2011 has been amended. The amendment provides inclusion of additional types of charges such as security interest in immovable property by mortgage other than deposit of title deeds, hypothecation of plant and machinery, stocks, debt including book debt or receivables, intangible assets, etc. This amendment allows (Central Registry of Securitization Asset Reconstruction and Security Interest) CERSAI to register these additional charges. Over 100,000 charges on movables have been registered thus far.

- The amended SARFAESI Act, 2002 provides priority to secured creditors to be paid first over all other debts and all revenues, taxes, cesses and other rates payable to the Central Government or State Government or local authority.

9. Paying Taxes

- In recent times, the focus of the Government is to gradually reduce the corporate tax rate from 30% to 25% in medium term. The Government is also focusing on increasing the incentives for the small businesses and the MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) industrial base.
- The tax incentives provided to the small and medium sized businesses in the fiscal year 2016 included the reduction of corporate tax rate to 29% for the companies with turnover/gross receipts of INR 50 million or less and reducing the tax rate to 25% for newly incorporated manufacturing companies. This has been further liberalised by reducing the corporate tax rate to 25% in the fiscal year 2017 for the companies with turnover/gross receipts of INR 500 million or less. Also, tax incentive is provided to start-ups to promote setting up start-ups in India.
- The Government is driving a new mantra 'RAPID- Revenue, Accountability, Probity, Information and Digitization' for administering the tax reforms. With project RAPID, Government is trying to achieve the goal of 'minimum government and maximum governance' and make tax compliances more taxpayer-friendly, transparent and eventually leading to widening of the tax base. There are visible efforts to facilitate, *inter alia*, online payment of taxes and electronic filing, processing, analyzing and scrutiny of income tax returns.
- The Income Tax Department in India has initiated an E-proceeding facility for all taxpayers which is an expanded and extended form of e-assessment (audit) involving direct communication between the taxpayer and the Department for all Income Tax proceedings including assessment (audit).
- Goods and Service Tax (GST) has been made effective from 1st July 2017. GST will subsume all the indirect taxes and will be a game changer of these times. Under the GST regime, the registration number would be PAN based and the details furnished in the GST return would also be reported to Income Tax department. Also, the Tax Audit report would be furnished before the inspecting GST authority. Such dialogue between these tax departments would lead to reporting of consistent data

by the taxpayer and would boost better, harmonized and efficient tax compliances within the Indian economy and widening of the tax base.

- Payment of Employee State Insurance Corporation and Employee Provident Fund Organization contributions can now be made online through 58 banks, debit cards or credit cards.
- Sales tax department of Maharashtra has eliminated physical touch point for filing of tax returns, tax payment and tax compliances by introducing online return filing and online payment through GRAS (Government Receipt Accounting System) for VAT, CST, Profession tax, Luxury Tax and Entry Tax.
- In India, the revision of return of income is a completely online process and revision by itself is not a criteria for selection of a case for scrutiny (audit). In India, selection of a case for scrutiny is based on several parameters under the Computer Aided Selection for Scrutiny (CASS) programme.

Reduction in share of agricultural exports

2576. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the share of agricultural exports in total exports of the country has reduced over the years;

(b) if so, the steps taken/considered to be taken by Government to increase the share of agricultural exports in total exports; and

(c) the major agricultural commodities exported by India during 2016-17, quantity-wise and price-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The share of agricultural exports (including plantation and marine products) in total exports of the country has declined marginally during the past three years. The details are as under:

(Values in USD Billion)			
Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Total Exports	310.34	262.29	276.28
Agricultural Exports	39.06	32.79	33.87
Share of Agricultural Exports (%)	12.59	12.50	12.26