

(c) whether it is also a fact that the public procurement is being managed by Government's e-market platform since last year;

(d) whether before closing DGS&D, Government has to decide upon issues to do with manpower, land and office spaces of the said Directorate; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D) Headquarter including its regional offices and its field offices have been closed on 31.10.2017.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The process of closure of DGS&D has been completed as stated in (a) and (b) above.

#### **Balance of trade**

1766. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total imports made by the country, including oil imports, in percentage and figures, in June, 2016 and that in June, 2017 along with total exports made by the country during the said period; and

(b) whether balance of trade of the country has improved in the year 2017 as compared to 2016?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The details of India's merchandise import including oil import during June, 2016 and June, 2017 along with India's merchandise export are as below:—

Value of Import (including Petroleum Oils and Products) (in US\$ Million)		Value of Import Petroleum Oils of and Products (in US\$ Million)		% Share of Import of Petroleum Oils and Products in India's Total Imports		Value of Export (in US\$ Million)	
June 2016	June 2017 (P)	June 2016	June 2017 (P)	June 2016	June 2017 (P)	June 2016	June 2017 (P)
30,917	36,981	7,291	7,694	23.58	20.81	22,656	22,996

*Source:* DGCI&S, Kolkata (P: Provisional).

(b) Yes Sir, India's merchandise balance of trade/trade deficit improved from (-)118.72 US\$ billion in 2015-16 to (-)108.50 US\$ billion in 2016-17.

### **Review of Foreign Trade Policy**

1767. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any review of the current Foreign Trade Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the findings of the said review and the details of effective measures being taken by Government on the basis of the outcome of the said review?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Review of the Foreign Trade Policy is a continuous process and the Government has been making changes in the Foreign Trade Policy as and when necessitated in order to steer the exports of the country in a positive direction. For example, in October 2017 Advance Authorization holders/ Export Promotion Capital Goods authorization holders/ 100% EOU units have been allowed to source inputs without payment of IGST for imports for the purpose of exports. Also, the limit of Free of Cost exports for export promotion have been increased for Status holder exporters to ₹ 1 Cr. or 2% of the average annual export realization during preceding three years. Further, the validity of duty credit scrips which are issued as an incentive to the exporters has been increased from 18 months to 24 months to enhance their utility in the GST framework. India's export of merchandise and services registered a growth of 4.58% during the year 2016-17 as compared to 2015-16, and also registered a growth of 9.02% in the April-October period of 2017-18, as compared to corresponding period in 2016-17.

Government has recently announced the mid-term review of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 on 05.12.2017. The measures taken by the Government to boost exports, reduce transaction costs, and ensure ease of trading are as follows:—

- (i) Under Merchandise Exports from India (MEIS), rate of incentives has been increased by 2% for labour intensive and MSME sectors. This is in addition to already announced increase in MEIS incentives from 2% to 4% for Ready-made Garments and Made Ups in the labour intensive textiles Sector.