

extending the Advance Authorization (AA)/Export Promotion of Capital Goods (EPCG)/100% EOU schemes to sourcing inputs etc. from abroad as well as domestic suppliers. During the mid-term review of Foreign Trade Policy in December, 2017, export incentives under Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) have been increased by 2% for labour intensive and MSME sectors leading to additional annual incentive of ₹ 4,567 crore. This was 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 with an additional annual incentive of ₹ 2,743 crore. Further, incentives under Services Exports from India Scheme (SEIS) have also been increased by 2% leading to additional annual incentive of ₹ 1,140 crore.

Proposal to fix MSP for rubber

1626. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is considering any proposal to fix Minimum Support Price (MSP) for rubber;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is in receipt of any recommendations regarding this from the Rubber Board; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Presently there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to fix Minimum Support Price (MSP) for rubber. However, "Rubber Production Incentive Scheme" is under implementation in the major rubber growing State of Kerala for providing financial support to rubber growers under which the difference between the Scheme Reference Price of ₹ 150 per kg. and the daily market price is credited to the bank account of the farmer directly on the basis of purchase bills.

Export of marine products to EU

†1627. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether major part of Indian marine products are exported to the European Union (EU);

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether countries of European Union have put/propose to put some procedural ban on export of marine products from India;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Indian marine products export sector would have to face problems due to the same; and
- (f) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) No Sir. European Union is the third largest destination for Indian Seafood. During FY 2017-18, the marine products exports share to EU was 13.82% in quantity and 15.78% in terms of USD value.

- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) No Sir.
- (d) Not applicable.
- (e) Question does not arise.
- (f) Not applicable.

India lagging as a global innovation hub

1628. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that no mechanism has been put in place to incubate innovative ideas at home;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that India is continuously lagging behind as a global innovation hub;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to promote innovation and inventions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) No, Sir.