

Review of trade reforms

1292. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to review trade reforms in order to help improve the 'ease of doing business' in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has received any representation/memorandum from business organizations for changing rules for the growth of international trade to achieve the goal of 'Make in India', programme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Trade reforms are an ongoing process based on consultation with stakeholders concerned. Main reforms under taken by the Government in the recent past are as follows:—

- (i) Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade (SWIFT) has been established to enable exporters to file a common electronic declaration on the ICEGATE portal covering requirements of all Partner Government Agencies; .
- (ii) The two facilitation schemes namely Accredited Clients Programme (ACP) and Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) have been merged 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;
- (iii) Facility of Deferred payment of Import Duty has been introduced, and importers certified both under AEO Programme (Tier-Two) and AEO Programme (Tier-Three) are eligible for availing the benefit of this provision;
- (iv) 24X7 Customs clearance facility has been made available at 19 seaports and 17 Air Cargo Complexes;
- (v) Indian Customs has done away with routine print-outs of several documents related to customs clearance;
- (vi) Number of mandatory documents required for exports and imports have been reduced to 3 each for export and import;

- (vii) Digital Signature has been introduced for importers, exporters, airlines, shipping lines etc;
- (viii) Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) has been set up;
- (ix) For reducing dwell time, Customs has made it mandatory to file a Bill of Entry before the end of the next day (excluding holidays) on which the vessel or aircraft or vehicle carrying the goods arrives or warehousing. A late charge for delayed filing of bill on entry has also been prescribed.

India's rank has improved to 100 among 190 countries in World Bank's Doing Business Report 2018 compared to 130 in World Bank's Doing Business Report 2017.

(c) and (d) Government receives feedback/ representations from Business Organizations, Trade Bodies etc on a regular basis. The suggestions are examined and decisions are taken based on the merit. During the mid-term review of Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 undertaken recently, the rates for Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) were enhanced by 2% for key labor intensive sectors such as ready-made garments, made-ups, leather items, handloom and handicraft items, sports goods and agricultural items, carpets etc. Similarly, the rates for Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS) rewards have also been increased by 2%. The increased rewards under both MEIS and SEIS are expected to boost exports and promote "Make in India". Recently, the government has undertaken reforms in Foreign Direct Investment Policy and made changes in custom duty of certain products to promote international trade and "Make in India".

Import of essential commodities

1293. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the import of essential commodities in the country during the last year and the current year, commodity-wise and country-wise;
- (b) whether import of essential commodities has registered any increase during the said period; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The details of India's import of essential commodities