

- 26.2% growth in Foreign exchange Earnings: from INR 2.3 Trillion (2012-14) to INR 2.9 trillion (2014-16)
- Swadesh Darshan launched -13 theme tourist circuits identified, 5 pan-India mega circuits identified, 56 projects worth INR 4823.91 crore underway
- PRASAD launched - 25 cities identified, 18 projects worth INR 488.45 crore underway
- 12 Institutes of Hospitality Management has been sanctioned for North East, 4 institutes operationalized; Indian Culinary Institute setup at Tirupati
- 1.85 lakh people trained under 'Hunar se Rozgar Tak' scheme.

Creation of export demand for tea

1300. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the big players of tea have failed in marketing it overseas;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that there is a need for big players to set up blending and packaging units overseas for which Government will give an assistance;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that there is a need to create an export demand and the industry to prepare a detailed study; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) Blending and packaging units in overseas destinations would help encourage exporters to increase participation in the 'value added' Indian tea segment which would in turn lead to greater branding opportunities through packs. The Tea Development and Promotion Scheme being implemented by the Tea Board during the Medium Term Framework (2017-18 to % 2019-20) provides for setting up of packaging units overseas under joint venture basis or through wholly-owned subsidiaries.

It has been a continuous endeavor of Tea Board and the tea industry to strategize ways and means to increase the export demand and the year 2017 (Jan. to Dec. 2017) has seen a record export at 240.68 m kgs in the last 36 years. In order to increase share of Indian tea in the international market, focused and sustained initiatives such as arranging buyer-seller meets, effecting exchange of delegations, participating in international trade fairs and undertaking generic promotion of Indian Brands in key markets are taken up by the Tea Board.

Measures to narrow trade deficit with China

1301 DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any stringent and appropriate measures to narrow trade deficit between India and China;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and total value of imports from China during the years 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 till date;
- (c) the list of major Chinese products, raw and finished goods flooded into domestic markets in India and their value;
- (d) whether Government has adequate support and facilitation to indigenous industries to combat the over dumping of Chinese products in Indian market particularly Chinese toys and play tools, furniture, fire crackers and electronics items; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Imports exceed exports because of shortages/non-availability of items domestically or because of the cost competitiveness of the foreign manufacturers. Government has formulated various schemes/programmes to help the domestic enterprises compete effectively with imports from China and other countries. Efforts are made to promote manufacturing through initiatives like 'Make in India', 'Digital India', 'Skill India' etc. which provide support for promoting domestic manufacturing capacity in the country. Some of these schemes/programmes which support the Micro, Small and Medium enterprises (MSMEs) include National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme (NMCP); Credit Guarantee Scheme; Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme; Cluster Development Programme; Market Development Assistance Scheme and Vendor Development Programme for Ancillarisation. These