

Cess on all types of construction activities

2270. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1 per cent cess is to be levied and collected on all types of construction activities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even if average daily wage is ₹ 300 per day, then cess collection should be ₹ 4,000 per worker/year;

(c) why many States are not collecting this amount and some are collecting just ₹ 477 per worker/year; and

(d) how Government will be able to implement social security schemes to building and other construction workers with this meagre amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. BOCW welfare cess is not collected on the basis of the daily wage of a BOC worker.

(d) The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) Act, 1996 provides for social security and welfare of building and other construction workers. For the above said purposes, a cess is levied and collected at the rate of 1% of the cost of construction by the State Governments/UT Administrations under the Building and Other Construction Workers' welfare cess Act, 1996. The State Governments/UT Administrations have collected around ₹ 45,473.1 crore and spent an amount of ₹ 17,591.592 crore up to 30.09.2018. The State Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Boards, constituted under BOCW Act, utilize the cess fund for the social security and welfare of BOC workers in terms of Section 22 of BOCW Act, 1996.

Finalisation of new Agricultural Export Policy

2271. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agricultural Export Policy, 2018 has been finalised;

(b) whether Government is aware that certain agricultural products such as rubber, banana, cashew, pepper and cardamom are excluded from the Agricultural Export Policy, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any request from Government of Kerala has been received regarding the exclusion of the above products to be included in the district cluster, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, sir, the Agriculture Export Policy has been approved by the Cabinet on 6th December, 2018.

(b) The Agriculture Export Policy covers all agricultural products including banana, cashew, pepper and cardamom.

(c) During consultations on the draft Agriculture Export Policy, the Government of Kerala had made several suggestions regarding inclusion of additional product-district clusters in the Agriculture Export Policy. For inclusion in the Agriculture Export Policy, the selection of such clusters was based on the existing production contributing to exports, exporters operations, scalability of operations, size of export market/India's share, awareness about SPS requirements, and potential for increase in export in short term. Based on the above criteria, the following clusters from Kerala have been included in the tentative list of identified clusters included in the final Agriculture Export Policy:-

Product	District (s)
Banana	Thrissur, Wayanad, Thiruvananthapuram
Turmeric	Wayanad, Alleppy
Pepper	Wayanad
Cardamom	Idukki

Impact of trade war between US and China

2272. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the current trade war between the US and China is bound to have its impact on the import and export of other countries, including India;

(b) if so, how does Government propose to maintain its trade relations with the US as well as China; and

(c) whether retaliatory tariffs increased by both the countries will impact the import of raw material by India from the two countries, particularly China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The current trade war between the US