

**Revival of exports**

196. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any signs of revival of exports that had been adversely affected by the financial crisis and economic slowdown noticed by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government during the last three years to boost the dwindling exports and the results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) India's overall exports (merchandise and services) have increased since 2016-17. During the current period 2018-19 (Apr-Sept), India's overall exports registered a positive growth of 17.01% as compared to the corresponding period of previous year. The details of India's overall exports for last three years and the current year are as follows:

Years	Value of Exports (US\$ billion)	% Change
2015-16	416.60	–
2016-17	440.05	5.63
2017-18	498.63	13.31
2017-18 (Apr-Sept)	226.08	–
2018-19 (Apr-Sept)*	264.54	17.01

*Source:* DGCI&S, Kolkata (\*Provisional) & RBI

(c) In order to boost India's exports, the Government has taken several measures through new Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 launched on 1st April 2015, its Mid-term Review released on December 5, 2017 and other policy measures taken from time to time. The key measures include:

(i) FTP 2015-20 provides a framework for increasing exports of goods and services as well as generation of employment and increasing value addition in the country, in line with the 'Make in India', 'Digital India', 'Skills India', 'Startup India' and 'Ease of doing business' initiatives.

(ii) The main policy objective is to enable India to respond to the challenges of the external environment keeping in view the rapidly evolving international

trading architecture and make trade a major contributor to the country's economic growth and development.

- (iii) The policy provides the framework for promotion of exports through schemes of incentives on exports and duty remission/exemption on inputs for export production.
- (iv) The policy introduces two new schemes, namely 'Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)' for improving export of specified goods by merging five earlier schemes for better coherence and 'Services Exports from India Scheme (SEIS) for increasing exports of notified services. Duty credit scrips issued under MEIS and SEIS and the goods imported against these scrips are fully transferable. The MEIS scheme now covers 8057 tariff lines at 8 digits level to all countries.
- (v) The policy includes measures to nudge procurement of capital goods from indigenous manufacturers under the EPCG scheme by reducing specific export obligation from 90 per cent to 75 per cent of the normal export obligation.
- (vi) The policy provides issue of Advance Authorisation to allow duty free import of inputs, which is physically incorporated in export product within a specified timeline.
- (vii) Interest Equalization Scheme on pre and post shipment rupee export credit has been introduced from 1.4.2015 to help exporters in accessing credit at reduced rates.
- (viii) 'Niryat Bandhu Scheme' has been galvanised and repositioned to achieve the objectives of Skill India' and trade promotion/awareness.
- (ix) Trade facilitation and enhancing the ease of doing business measures have been taken with special focus on moving towards paperless working. The Government has launched a Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade (SWIFT) clearances project with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2016. The scheme enables the importers/exporters to file a common electronic 'Integrated Declaration' on the Indian Customs Electronic Commerce/Electronic Data Interchange (EC/EDI) Gateway *i.e.* ICEGATE portal. India also ratified the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA) in April 2016 for enhancing trade facilitation.

- (x) A new scheme called "Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES)" has been launched from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to address the export infrastructure gaps in the country.
- (xi) The Mid-term Review of Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 launched on 5th December 2017 provides more incentives for export promotion.

Due to the above mentioned steps taken by the Government, there has been a revival of exports and the results achieved there from are reflected in para (a) and (b) above.

#### **Development of industrial corridors in Andhra Pradesh**

197. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has embarked on the establishment of Industrial Corridors in the State of Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the quantum of funds allocated and released/being released in the present financial year, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether these projects are being taken up in the coming financial year, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Government is undertaking development of Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) and East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC) with Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC) as Phase-1 which also cover Andhra Pradesh.

(b) An amount of ₹2.5 crore has been allocated and released by Government of India towards initial equity contribution in the project Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for Krishnapatnam node in CBIC.

(c) For CBIC, Krishnapatnam node has been identified as the priority node and detailed master planning and preliminary engineering activities are going on.

Further, Asian Development Bank (ADB) has carried out the initial project development activities for VCIC and four nodes namely, (i) Visakhapatnam, (ii) Kakinada, (iii) Kankipadu-Gannavaram and (iv) Yerpedu-Srikalahasti of Andhra Pradesh were identified in conceptual development plan for development. Amongst these, ADB