

(d) The details of contribution of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) exports and employment during the past two years and current financial year is as below:

Financial Years	Exports (₹ in crore)	Employment* (Persons)
2016-2017	5,23,637	17,31,641
2017-2018	5,81,033	19,77,216
2018-2019 (April to September, 2018)	3,33,661	19,96,610

* calculated on cumulative basis.

Illegal import of pepper under SAFTA

318. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether rampant illegal import of Vietnam pepper *via* Sri Lanka at concessional rate of duty under SAFTA and Indo-Sri Lanka a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is hurting Indian economy;

(b) whether the Kerala Chapter of Indian Pepper and Spice Traders Consortium has alleged that Sri Lanka was working against the interest and welfare of Indian pepper farmers by giving Vietnam pepper the Certificate of Origin of Sri Lankan pepper under the guise of value addition; and

(c) whether Hassan (Karnataka) based Consortium of Black Pepper Growers Organisation has also alleged similar exploitation of the SAARC agreement by routing imports through Nepal and Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) A number of references have been received by the Government of India, alleging that import of Vietnamese pepper through Sri Lanka, under the provisions of the Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) and the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement is adversely affecting the domestic price of pepper in India.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir.

Policy to boost farm exports

319. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any policy to boost farm exports;