

Withdrawal of GSP

3073. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government was negotiating with the US on the issue of withdrawing the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) status to Indian business houses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that while India exported over US \$50 billion or about ₹4 lakh crore, GSP benefits were given to an export basket worth ₹ 42,000 crore; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Trade related issues are a part of any ongoing economic relationship. India has been engaged with US on this issue, as a part of our regular ongoing bilateral trade engagements.

(c) and (d) India exported goods worth \$6.3 billion (as per USITC figures) to the U.S. under the GSP programme during the calendar year 2018, which was about 12.1% of India's total exports to the U.S. in that year. The total duty concessions accruing on account were \$ 240 million in 2018, which was about 3.8% of the India's export to US in that year availing GSP benefits.

Removal of MEIS

3074. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry, as per media reports, is planning to remove Merchandise Exports from India (MEIS) scheme for exports, which was introduced primarily with a view to make our labour intensive export industry more competitive; and

(b) whether it would affect our exports and lead to more unemployment in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) The Government has been implementing various export promotion schemes