

(5) Transport Subsidy Scheme (TSS), 1971 / Freight Subsidy Scheme (FSS), 2013

- In order to facilitate the process of industrialization in hilly, remote and inaccessible areas, in terms of subsidizing industrial units for transportation of their finished product and raw material Transport Subsidy Scheme was introduced on 27.07.1971.
- Freight Subsidy Scheme replaced the erstwhile Transport Subsidy Scheme, 1971 on 22.01.2013. The incentives under the scheme are available for all 8 States of North East, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Darjeeling District of West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Administration and Lakshadweep Administration.
- The tenure of Freight Subsidy Scheme (FSS), 2013 was from 22.01.2013 to 22.11.2016. However, industrial units registered under the scheme prior to the date of issue of DIPP's notification dated 22.11.2016 are eligible for the benefits of the scheme for committed number of years post-commencement of commercial production up to 21.11.2021.
- Under TSS, 1971/FSS, 2013, since inception, ₹ 5288.95 crore have been released to the States of NER and Himalayan States which includes ₹4698.57crore in respect of NER States and ₹590.38 crore in respect of Himalayan States.

#### **Impact of withdrawal of GSP**

2932. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that United States of America withdrew special status of India under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) Scheme;
- (b) if so, the revenue impact on Indian exporters; and
- (c) whether any efforts have been made to restore the status?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):

(a) Yes, Sir. The benefits under the GSP scheme were withdrawn for India by U.S. w.e.f 5th June 2019.

(b) In 2018, India exported goods worth of \$ 6.3 billion (as per USTR figures) to U.S. under the GSP programme, which was approx 12.1% of India's total exports to the U.S. The average duty concessions accruing on account of GSP were approx. \$ 240 million in 2018, which was about 3.8% of India's exports to the U.S. availing the GSP benefits. The impact varies across products, depending on the individual product level concessions which were availed under the GSP. However, so far the cumulative exports under the GSP tariff lines have not declined in the post GSP withdrawal period (June - October, 2019) as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) Trade related issues are a part of ongoing economic relationship, and will continue to be discussed and addressed as a part of the regular bilateral trade engagement between India and the US.

#### **Concerns of seafood exporters**

2933. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian seafood exporters fear non-tariff barriers by China, currently one of the main buyers of Indian shrimp, with India opting out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP);

(b) whether China has been buying shrimp directly from India this year after it cracked down on the illegal border trade with Vietnam; and

(c) whether China has started to check Indian consignments for White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV) which they have never done before and if so, whether this could be a prelude to impose non-tariff barriers by China incensed with India's opting out of the RCEP?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):

(a) As of now, no such communication has been received from the Indian seafood exporters in this regard.

(b) During 2018-19, China bought frozen shrimp worth US\$ 392 million (66929 tons) from India against US\$ 89 million (73707 tons) in 2017-18. In the current year (April-September, 2019), China has imported frozen shrimp worth US\$ 404.94 million (69571 tons) from India as compared to US\$ 131.03 million (21823 tons) during the same period last year, registering a growth of about 209%.