

(c) whether unhindered import of goods under Free Trade Agreements has hurt domestic industries, particularly MSMEs; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps Government now proposes to take in this regard?

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

(a) and (b) With the aim of achieving key regulatory objectives related to imports and exports, the government is undertaking steps for creating/enhancement of domestic capacity, incentivizing domestic manufacturing through Production Linked Incentive Schemes, Phased Manufacturing Plans etc., timely use of trade remedy options, adoption of mandatory Technical Standards and enforcement of FTA Rules of Origin (RoO).

(c) and d) The import of products under the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) have to meet the Rules of Origin and other criteria as specified in the FTA. Further, in order to protect domestic industry, FTAs provide for maintaining sensitive/exclusion list of items, which include products of interest for MSMEs, on which limited or no tariff concessions are granted. In case of surge in imports and injury to the domestic industry, a country is allowed to take recourse to trade remedial measures by way of safeguard duties. In addition, to strengthen the enforcement procedures on Rules of Origin for imports under FTA, 'Customs (Administration of Rules of Origin under Trade Agreements) Rules, 2020' have been notified.

#### **Review of Free Trade Agreement with ASEAN**

717. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to review the continuation of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with ASEAN in the wake of the trading bloc's reluctance to address India's concerns;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has decided to have reciprocal arrangements with the countries with whom we have opened up our markets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Government of India is engaging with ASEAN to review the FTA in

accordance with related provisions of the Agreement. In the India-ASEAN Economic Ministers Consultations held on 29th August 2020, both sides instructed the senior officials, to engage to determine the scope of the review.

(c) and (d) Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) essentially involve mutual concessions between the parties. Review provisions are envisaged to periodically address any gaps, shortcomings and imbalances. India proposes to suitably use these provisions, accordingly.

#### **Funds to boost agriculture exports**

718. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has proposed to provide additional funds to the States to boost India's exports of primary agriculture products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the reforms Government has proposed to undertake in the farm sector?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):  
(a) and (b) As a part of implementation of the Agriculture Export Policy, a number of States have finalized their respective Action Plans identifying various infrastructure gaps affecting agricultural exports. To address these gaps, the States can avail assistance under the Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) of Department of Commerce and under various existing Schemes of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; Ministry of Food Processing Industries etc.

(c) the Government has introduced a comprehensive Agriculture Export Policy (AEP) to harness export potential of Indian agriculture and raise farmers' income. Department of Commerce, has taken several steps to implement AEP at State/ District level. State specific Action Plans, State Level Monitoring Committees (SLMCs), Nodal agencies for agricultural exports and Cluster Level Committees have been formed in a number of States. Country and product-specific action plans also have been formulated to promote exports. A Farmer Connect Portal has been set up by APEDA for providing a platform for farmers, Farmer-Producer Organizations (FPOs) and cooperatives to interact with exporters. Buyer-seller Meets(BSMs) have been organized in the clusters to provide export-market linkages.