

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1921

ANSWERED ON:19.08.2013

BOARD OF TRADE

Bhagora Shri Tarachand;Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has held discussion with the Board of Trade to consider more steps to give a boost to exports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps suggested by the Board of Trade to enhance exports along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to enter into an agreement on trade facilitation proposing time bound clearance of consignments, single-window approval for cargo and processing of documents even before goods reach the ports;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps proposed to be taken to ensure proper implementation of the projects; and
- (e) whether India has sought financial assistance from developed nations to meet the requirements of the said proposals and if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the developed nations thereto?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. D. PURANDESWARI)

- (a) Yes Madam. A meeting of the Board of Trade was held on 22nd March, 2013.
- (b) In the meeting of Board of Trade (BoT) members spoke about Euro Zone crisis, slowdown in exports, widening of trade deficit and measures required to boost exports. These have been examined. Keeping in view financial and overall economic implications, some of the suggestions like widening of Interest Subvention Scheme to include more sectors, widening the ambit of Focus Product and Focus Market Schemes etc. have been incorporated in the Annual Supplement to the Foreign Trade Policy announced on 18.4.2013.
- (c) The Government is engaged in negotiating a WTO Agreement on trade facilitation in terms of the modalities contained in the July 2004 Framework Agreement to which India is a signatory.
- (d) The proposed Agreement on trade facilitation seeks to develop a set of multilateral trade rules for further expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit across the international borders. It also aims at enhancing technical assistance and support for capacity building in this area. It further aims to have provisions for effective cooperation between customs or any other appropriate authorities on trade facilitation and customs compliance issues. As a developing country, India would be entitled to avail the Special and Differential provisions under the Agreement and would have the flexibility to determine which commitments to implement immediately upon the entry into force of the Agreement and which ones to implement in a phased manner.
- (e) No, Madam.