

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1797  
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013  
TRADE RELATIONS WITH JAPAN  
Dhruvanarayana Shri R. ;Siricilla Shri Rajaiah

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

- (a) whether India and Japan propose to boost investments and bilateral trade;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon and the progress made so far in this regard;
- (c) whether Japan had imposed any restriction/ban on the import of marine products including shrimps from India;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) whether Japan has now agreed to resolve the issue pertaining to chemicals used as feed and preservatives for the marine products and if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN)

(a): Yes, Madam. A Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed between India and Japan on 16th February 2011 and it came into force from 1st August, 2011. The agreement signifies the stability of our policy regime to our investment partner. Japanese investment is important not only from the financial resources point of view but also due to the embedded high technology and quality management practices that come with it. CEPA also envisages to increase the level of bilateral trade.

(b): Minister of Commerce and Industry visited Japan from 16 to 19 May, 2013 for a comprehensive and substantive review of bilateral economic engagement with Japan and during his meeting with his Japanese counterpart, both Ministers, inter-alia, discussed issues relating to (i) Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project; (ii) Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) project; and (iii) India-Japan Investment Promotion.

(c) & (d): Japan's Food Safety Commission announced new regulations, in September, 2012, which imposed compulsory testing for Ethoxyquin ( a chemical found in fish feed), in shrimp consignments, adopting the default standard of 0.01 ppm per Kg body weight. The issue had been taken up with the Japanese Authorities at different levels including during the visit of the Prime Minister to Japan in May, 2013 for an early resolution to this issue. Japanese law requires referring the matter to the Food Safety Commission for establishing permissible norms.

(e): Embassy of India in Japan has informed that the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has notified a proposed residue of 0.2ppm. They have called for the comments from public on the proposed Maximum Residual Level (MRL), to be received by not later than 31st December, 2013.