

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 537
ANSWERED ON 26/07/2024

DECREASING IMPORTS FROM CHINA

537. DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that imports from China are decreasing day by day;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) the details of the total trade deficit between India and China during the last three years, year-wise, item-wise; and
- (d) efforts / steps taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) & (b) Imports from China have shown amixed trend during the last decade (2014-15 to 2023-24). The imports had risen from USD 60.41 bn in 2014-15 to USD 76.38 bn in 2017-18 but then there was a declining trend in the next 3 years with imports falling to USD 65.21 bn in 2020-21. The imports have risen in the last 3 years (2021-22 to 2023-24).

The Imports of China for the last 3 years can be accessed at DoC's website i.e. <https://tradedstat.commerce.gov.in/eidb/default.asp>

(c) The details of trade deficit between India and China year wise and item wise can be accessed at DoC's website i.e. <https://tradedstat.commerce.gov.in/eidb/default.asp>. The trade deficit of India with China has increased by compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 42.85 percent during 2004-05 to 2013-14 while the same has come down to compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.45 percent during 2014-15 to 2023-24 clearly indicating the success of the Government in containing rate of growth of excessive import growth from China during the past 10 years.

(d) The Government of India has taken several initiatives to reduce dependency on imports. Under 'Make in India' initiative, the Government has launched Production Linked Incentives (PLI) Schemes in 14 critical sectors like electronics, pharmaceuticals, white goods, telecom and Networking products, etc., where there is substantial dependency on imports. For development of semiconductors and display manufacturing ecosystem, the Government has approved Semicon India Programme with financial outlay of Rs. 76,000 cr. The Government has also introduced stricter quality standards and measures for quality controls, testing protocols, and mandatory certification to check substandard imports. The Government also encourages Indian business establishments to explore alternative suppliers to reduce dependency on single sources of supply. Also, the Government monitors the surge in imports on a regular basis and takes appropriate action. Further, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies is empowered to recommend trade remedial actions against unfair trade practices.

The initiatives taken by the Government have led to decline in dependency on imports in several sectors. For example, the import of mobile phones has decreased from Rs48,609 cr in 2014-15 to Rs 7,674 cr in 2023-24. On the other hand, the export of mobile phones has increased from Rs. 1,566 cr in 2014-15 to more than Rs.1,28,982cr in 2023-24. In the recent period, the decline in imports has also been observed in sectors like electronics, organic chemicals and fertilizer crude where imports have declined by 45.1%, 31.3% and 42.2%, respectively.
