

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5228 (H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th JULY, 2019

TRADE SURPLUS

5228(H). SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- the figures of import, export and trade surplus during the last five years;
- whether the Government proposes to enhance trade surplus;
- if so, the outline formulated in this regard; and
- if not, the intention of the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (d): India's overall (merchandise and services) exports, imports and trade deficit during last five years are as follows:

(Value in US\$ Billions)

Years	Export	Import	Trade Deficit
2014-15	468.46	529.61	(-) 61.15
2015-16	416.60	465.64	(-) 49.04
2016-17	440.05	480.26	(-) 40.20
2017-18	498.63	583.08	(-) 84.45
2018-19*	538.07	640.13	(-) 102.06

Source: DGCI&S & RBI, (*Provisional)

Government has taken the following steps to enhance India's trade surplus:

- A new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 was launched on 1st April 2015. The FTP 2015-20 provides a framework for increasing exports of goods and services as well as generation of employment and increasing value addition in the country, in line with the 'Make in India', 'Digital India', 'Skills India', 'Startup India' and 'Ease of doing business' initiatives. The policy, inter alia, rationalised the earlier export promotion schemes and introduced two new schemes, namely Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) for improving export of

- goods and ‘Services Exports from India Scheme (SEIS)’ for increasing exports of services. Duty credit scrips issued under these schemes were made fully transferable.
- ii. A new Logistics Division was created in the Department of Commerce to coordinate integrated development of the logistics sector. India’s rank in World Bank’s Logistics Performance Index moved up from 54 in 2014 to 44 in 2018.
 - iii. Various measures for improving ease of doing business were taken. India’s rank in World Bank ‘Ease of doing business’ ranking improved from 142 in 2014 to 77 in 2018 with the rank in ‘trading across borders’ moving up from 122 to 80.
 - iv. A comprehensive “Agriculture Export Policy” was launched on 6th December, 2018 with an aim to double farmers’ income by 2022 and provide an impetus to agricultural exports.
 - v. A new scheme called “Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES)” was launched with effect from 1st April 2017 to address the export infrastructure gaps in the country.
 - vi. A new scheme called “Transport and Marketing Assistance” (TMA) scheme has been launched for mitigating disadvantage of higher cost of transportation for export of specified agriculture products.
 - vii. The policy includes measures to nudge procurement of capital goods from indigenous manufacturers under the EPCG scheme by reducing specific export obligation from 90 percent to 75 percent of the normal export obligation.
 - viii. The policy provides issue of Advance Authorisation to allow duty free import of inputs, which is physically incorporated in export product within a specified timeline.
 - ix. The Mid-term Review of the FTP 2015-20 was undertaken on 5th December, 2017. Incentive rates for labour intensive / MSME sectors were increased by 2% with a financial implication of Rs 8,450 cr per year.
 - x. Niryat Bandhu Scheme has been launched for outreach/ trade awareness amongst new/potential exporters.
 - xi. Interest Equalization Scheme on pre and post shipment rupee export credit was introduced with effect from 1.4.2015 providing interest equalisation at 3% for labour intensive / MSME sectors. The rate was increased to 5% for MSME sectors with effect from 2.11.2018 and merchant exporters were covered under the scheme with effect from 2.1.2019.
 - xii. A new scheme called Scheme for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) covering export of garments and made-ups was notified on 7.3.2019 providing refund of duties/taxes at higher rates.
