

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1286
ANSWERED ON 03/12/2024
DEPLOYMENT OF INDIAN TRADE SERVICE

1286. SHRI SUKANTA KUMAR PANIGRAHI

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

- (a) Whether there are plans to deploy Indian Trade Service (ITS) officers to key trade partners to facilitate trade negotiations and boost bilateral investments, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore;
- (b) the details of specific roles and responsibilities for existing officers to undertake in major trading nations, and the manner in which their continuance contributes to trade and investment;
- (c) whether the Government is taking steps to ensure that Indian Trade Services officers are adequately trained and equipped to represent county interests in international markets effectively, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any assessments or studies on the impact of deploying officers from disparate backgrounds in enhancing trade with India's major economics partners, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of steps taken by the Government ensure ITS Officers are equipped to address trade deficits and surpluses with countries.

ANSWER

वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जितिन प्रसाद)

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

- (a) Indian Trade Service (ITS) officers are deployed in the bilateral, multilateral trade negotiations i.e. WTO trade negotiations and various FTA negotiations.
- (b) Currently, Indian Trade Service Officers are posted in Territorial Division under Department of Commerce to work on issues related to Trade in the territory. Further, The Indian Trade Service Officers handle matters related to Foreign Trade as under:
 - i. Implementation of the Foreign Trade Development and Regulation Act, 1992 as amended in 2010.

- ii. Formulation and implementation of Foreign Trade Policy from time to time.
- iii. Administer various export promotion measures and export promotion schemes.
- iv. Settlement of quality complaints and other trade disputes of exporters and importers.
- v. Work on various matters related to WTO agreements, negotiations, Rules of Origin negotiations and WTO trade disputes.
- vi. Work related to Trade Remedies and Trade Defence mechanisms under The Directorate General of Trade Remedies.

(c to e) The Indian Trade Service Officers are trained professionally at the Indian Institute of Foreign trade (IIFT) for a period of 9 Months. Further, the Indian Trade Service officers are also trained under various training programs of the WTO to handle trade negotiations, implementation of WTO agreements, and handling of WTO trade disputes. In addition, Indian Trade Officers are also trained at various training institutes like the centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL), the centre for WTO Studies (CWTOS) etc. The Department of Commerce and DGFT assess from time to time the requirements of various Territorial Divisions and accordingly, post or deploy the Officers in Territorial Divisions for handling work related to the Trade Partners.
