

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3561
ANSWERED ON 17/12/2024

REDUCING TRADE DEFICIT

3561. ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:

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

- (a) the details of the actions being taken by the Government to address the rising trade deficit, which widened to USD 27.14 billion in October due to a 3.9 per cent increase in imports, particularly driven by higher gold and petroleum imports;
- (b) whether the Government intends to take further action to regulate and reduce the import of gold, which saw a significant increase in imports in September 2024;
- (c) if so, the manner in which to manage the impact of gold imports on India's trade balance; and
- (d) the details of the steps taken to continue promoting non-petroleum exports, which have reached an all-time high of USD 211.3 billion?

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) Trade deficit (Merchandise + Services) improved significantly in October 2024 with USD 9.90 Billion as compared to USD 15.85 Billion in October 2023, an improvement of 37.5 percent in October 2024. The merchandise trade deficit in October 2024 has also improved to USD 26.99 billion as compared to USD 30.43 billion in October 2023, registering a decline of 11.30 percent. Moreover, during October 2024, the imports of gold were USD 7.12 billion as compared to USD 7.23 billion in October 2023, registering a decline of 1.43 percent.

(b) & (c) The import of gold increased slightly from USD 4.11 billion in September 2023 to USD 4.39 billion in September 2024. However, in October 2024, the import of gold has declined to USD 7.13 billion as compared to USD 7.23 billion in October 2023, registering a decline of 1.43 percent.

(d) Several steps have been taken by the Government to boost exports. Some of the measures include providing export incentives, easing trade processes through digital platforms such as

Trade Connect e-Portal, Jansunwai and negotiating free trade agreements (FTAs) with various countries and trading blocs to enhance market access for Indian products. Regular monitoring of export performance with Commercial Missions abroad, Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards/ Authorities and Industry Associations and for taking corrective measures as required from time to time. The Department has been actively interacting and engaging with the State Governments/Union Territories / Districts to create an enabling environment to boost goods and services exports. Further, new Foreign Trade Policy (2023) lays down a blue print to integrate India with the global market and make it a reliable and trusted trade partner. It will further improve India's trade performance and competitiveness.
