

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. 456
ANSWERED ON 24/03/2026

EXPORTS TESTING FACILITIES

*456. SHRI AZAD KIRTI JHA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has received representations from the States and exporters, including seafood exporters regarding shortages of export testing facilities required to ensure products meeting international standards and prevent shipment rejections, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the reasons for such shortage and the measures taken to increase such export testing facilities;
- (c) whether the Government has received representations from Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and textiles sector, regarding prices of domestic raw materials remaining 15-20 per cent higher than international prices, if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such disparity and the measures taken to ensure price competitiveness; and
- (d) whether the Government has received representations regarding shipping line levies for empty containers and shortage of shipping containers, including the tea sector, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the measures taken to ensure availability of shipping containers at competitive prices

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)
THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*456 FOR ANSWER ON 24th MARCH, 2026 REGARDING
“EXPORTS TESTING FACILITIES”**

(a) to (b) The Government is in continuous consultations with exporters' associations, including those from the seafood sector, regarding adequacy of testing capacity and timelines for pre-export testing in certain cases. In this regard it is stated that Export Inspection Council (EIC), a statutory body under Department of Commerce entrusted with ensuring quality and safety of export commodities from India, and its network of testing laboratories forms a critical backbone of this framework. EIC has a network of 86 laboratories across the country which are accredited by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) under the integrated assessment scheme to meet export testing requirements. Further NABL has informed that under the integrated assessment scheme 95 laboratories of Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), 56 laboratories of Tea Board, 3 laboratories of Spice Board, 36 laboratories of Indian Oilseeds & Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC) and 13 laboratories of Shellac & Forest Products Export Promotion Council (SHEFEXIL) have also been accredited by NABL for testing of commodities intended for export. The Government is continuously taking steps to strengthen and expand testing infrastructure in order to facilitate exports and ensure compliance with international standards. New laboratory facilities are being developed to meet regional testing needs, improve testing capabilities and better serve exporters.

(c) As informed by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), the Government is in continuous consultations with industry associations about the rising cost of raw materials for MSMEs. The Ministry of MSME, through its public sector undertaking, the National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC), helps MSMEs procure raw materials. In addition, the Ministry through its initiatives like Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprise, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and Self-Reliant India (SRI) Fund Scheme provides financial support to ensure productivity and competitiveness of MSMEs. As informed by the Ministry of Textiles, the Government is in regular consultations with stakeholders for ensuring the price competitiveness of the Textiles sector.

(d) As informed by Ministry of Shipping, the production of shipping containers has begun to scale up in recent years. The Government in Budget Speech 2026-27 has announced a Scheme for container manufacturing in India with a budget outlay of Rs. 10,000 crores aimed at creating a globally competitive container manufacturing ecosystem in the country through financial incentives to support establishment and expansion of container manufacturing units.
