

Dal valued at Rs.1,00,000/- loaded on a Truck valued at Rs. 3,00,000/-

(Quantities and value are approximate and provisional).

(c) Offence cases have been registered and penal action will be taken against the persons involved in the smuggling of pulses as per the provisions of law.

(d) and (e). Involvement of Customs or other Government officials have not been reported in the above mentioned cases.

Export Growth Rate

9566. SHRI ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE:
SHRI SHANKERSINH
VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the collapse of the erstwhile Soviet Union had imposed "major Constraint" on India's export growth rate this year as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 2, 1992;

(b) if so the facts thereof;

(c) the extent to which the export growth rate has declined; and

(d) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The disintegration of the former Soviet Union had imposed a major constraint on India's export growth during the financial year 1991-92. According to the provisional figures, India's exports to Rupee Payment Area, in which

former USSR was the major constituent, declined by 42.7 percent from US.\$ 2871 million during April-February 1990-91 to US \$ 1646 million during April-February, 1991-92. In Rupee terms, they declined by 21.7%.

(d) Several changes in trade policy were introduced since July 1991 aimed at strengthening export incentives, eliminating a substantial volume of import licensing and rationalising the import tariff structure. In the budget for 1992/93, rupee was made partially convertible to encourage generation of foreign exchange and compress imports through the price mechanism by making them dearer. These have been further consolidated in the new Export-Import policy announced on 31st March 1992, which, inter alia, aims to promote the productivity, modernisation and competitiveness of Indian industry and thereby to enhance its export capabilities. Besides, the government has taken other steps which include reducing controls through licensing simplification of procedures for export, activation of Board of Trade, bilateral discussions with select countries, interaction with national organisation of Trade and Industry, etc. In addition, the Government has opened a dialogue with the newly formed Republic of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and signed bilateral agreements with a number of them already.

National Port Authority

9567. SHRI M.G. REDDY:
SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KON-
ATHALA:
KUMARI PADMASREE
KUDUMULA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question Number 5900 on September 6, 1991 and state:

(a) whether the government have taken

a final decision to set up 'National Port Authority';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT(SHRIJAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Committee of Secretaries has decided not to pursue the proposal to set up National Port Authority.

(c) Does not arise.

Import of COCO

9568. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRI-
YAPPA:
SHRI K.H.MUNIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Coco imported during each of the last three years;

(b) whether a number of companies have increased the import of Coco in the recent times;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this increase in the import of Coco has resulted in its distress sale by the Indian growers; and

(e) if so, steps proposed to be taken by the Government to minimise or restrict its import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE(SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Quantity of Cocoa imported during last three years for which data are available are as under:

Year	Quantity(intonnes)
1986-87	41
1987-88	44
1988-89	09

(b) and (c). Foreign Trade Statistics of India are not maintained company-wise.

(d) and (e). There is no increase in the import of coco as seen from the above figures.

Seizure of Gold and Silver in Gujarat

9569. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of smuggled gold, silver and other contraband items seized in Gujarat since January 1, 1990 to March 31, 1992;

(b) the details of persons involved in the smuggling; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE(SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). The quantity and value of smuggled gold, silver and other contraband items seized in Gujarat since January 1, 1990 to March 31, 1992 is given in the table below. 260 persons were arrested in connection with these cases.