

(b) the number of such applications cleared, the number of applications rejected and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether applications from Export Houses, Trading Houses and Star Trading Houses are being given a special treatment; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) As per information available the number of applications received in port offices as well as the Headquarters are 1037.

(b) As against the above mentioned applications, 527 have been accepted, 168 are rejected and 342 are pending on account of deficient information/documents, low value addition and non-fulfilment of the eligibility criteria.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Export of Gems

2578. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage decline in the export of Gems during 1990-91 and 1991-92;

(b) the reasons for the decline;

(c) the names of the countries to which gems were exported and foreign exchange earnings in each case; and

(d) the measures contemplated by the Government to step up the exports of gems and to explore new markets?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b). The export of gems i.e. colored gem stones (excluding diamonds, pearls and synthetic stones) for the last three years are given as under:

(Value in Rs. Crores)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>% growth in Rupee</i>	<i>% growth in US \$</i>
1989-90	194.82		
1990-91	207.70	+ 6.6	- 0.85
1991-92	257.02	+23.75	-10.34

(Source: GJEPC)

There is a decline in export of gems in dollar terms due to a general recession in the major international markets for gems and jewellery.

(c) The Country-wise exports of coloured gemstones are given below:-

(Value in Rs. crores)

Country	1990-91	1991-92
U.S.A.	42.38	64.23
Hongkong	39.92	47.78
Thailand	35.81	39.62
West Germany	22.26	26.18
Switzerland	17.73	24.82
Others	49.60	44.39
Total	207.70	257.02

(d) Exporters of gems and Jewellery items are provided access to raw materials through the various schemes notified in the Export-Import Policy to increase the exports of Gem & Jewellery. Exporters are also assisted for participation in fairs and exhibitions and for sending delegations for market surveys in foreign markets.

Reopening of Old Trade Routes between Indian and Tibet

2579. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reopen old trade routes between India and Tibet;

(b) if so, the details of such routes;

(c) the time by which these routes are proposed to be reopened for trade;

(d) whether the route through Mana, in Chamoli district of Uttar Pradesh is also proposed to be reopened; and

(e) if not, the reasons for not reopening this very old and traditional trade route?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). The Chinese authorities have presently only agreed to resumption of trade from Lipulekh pass in Pithoragarh District of Uttar Pradesh. This route will be open between June and September each year.

[Translation]

Firing Range in Andhra Pradesh

2580. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to establish a firing range in Nalgonda and Rangereddy districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of people likely to be displaced;

(c) whether the Government have