

However, Exemption Certificates can be issued for exporting such African Ivory articles which are made of African Ivory imported prior to February 4, 1977 subject to the provisions of Public Notice No. 7-ETC(PN)/80 dated 1-2-1980. Government had received a representation from the Delhi Exporters' Association that Exemption Certificates may be issued by the All India Handicrafts Board. This proposal has not been found acceptable, as under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora such Certificates/Permits are required to be issued by the Management Authority designated by the party State. In case of India, Director, Wild Life Preservation in the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is charged with the responsibility of issuing Certificates/Permits. The powers vested in the Management Authority cannot be delegated to any other Officer.

Difficulties in Export of Old Ivory Products

2191. SHRI UTTAM RAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about many difficulties in the export of old ivory products (by artisans/exporters/dealers) which have been caused by the concerned departments resulting in great hardship to the workers/exporters in general and loss of foreign exchange to the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details therefor and what remedial steps taken by Government to remove the hardship to the concerned parties and workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). Representations have been made to Government about difficulties in the export of ivory products. Request was made

for extension of time for declaration of stocks of ivory imported into India prior to February 4, 1977. Since manufacturers/dealers had already been given sufficient time for declaration of stocks further extension in date was not considered desirable. It had also been represented that there were difficulties in export of old reworked ivory of African origin. Since there was no evidence to prove that the old reworked ivory was of African origin it was not possible to permit its exports.

Representation from Delhi Exporters' Association, Delhi

2192. SHRI UTTAM RAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from Delhi Exporters' Association, Delhi regarding export of Old and reworked African Origin Ivory Production Products;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and action taken thereon; and

(c) what is the annual export earning from Old Ivory products and how much labour force in rural and urban areas is engaged in the carving and reworking of Old reworked African Originated Ivory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Representations from Delhi Exporters' Association for export of old ivory was received by Government. Since there was no evidence to prove that the stocks of old reworked ivory, intended for export are of African origin, the Government did not find itself in a position to permit the export.

(c) Separate Statistics for such old ivory products are not available. Exports of ivory products as a whole during the year 1978-79 were of the

order of Rs. 209.25 lakhs. About 15,000 carvers are engaged in this trade.

Strikes in IA and AI from April 1977 to December 1979

2193. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees and crew of various categories of Indian Air-Line and Air India have gone on strikes during April 1977 to December, 1979;

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

(c) what were their demands;

(d) the outcome of the said strikes and the details of agreements arrived at and assurances given in each strikes; and

(e) the details of losses to the management and the employees as well as to Government and the Exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). A statement giving the requisite information in respect of Indian Airlines is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-782/82] Information in respect of Air India is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Exports by MMTC

2194. SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) total amount of exports made by the M.M.T.C. during the year 1978-79 and 1979-80 up to February, 1980;

(b) what were the main exports items and the names of the concerns; and

(c) what is the latest policy of Government to boost up the exports in near future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Exports made by MMTC during 1978-79 and 1979-80 are as under:

	(Value in Rs. crores)
1978-79	195.42
1979-80 (upto Feb., 1980)	187.99 (Provisional)

(b) The main export items of the Corporation are:—

(i) Iron ore, (ii) Manganese ore, (iii) Coal, (iv) Chrome ore, (v) Barytes, (vi) Sillimanite, (vii) Mica. exported through MITCO, a subsidiary of MMTC.

(c) The Government is trying to boost the export of minerals by (i) improving the infrastructural facilities in order to cut down internal costs and (ii) diversifying the export markets.

Import of Coking Coal from Poland

2195. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coking coal is in short supply in the country and for that reason Poland has been requested to export some of its surpluses to India;

(b) if so, what is the quantity proposed to be imported and at what cost; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the prices of coking coal have been revised five times and are now on an average 50 per cent higher since the nationalisation of the coal industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government have been considering several possibilities including imports in order to augment the indigenous availability