

Recommendation

Action taken

(b) The role of a harmonising agency could be played by the creation of a statutory All India Leather Board on the analogy of other commodity Boards by integrating one or more of the existing organisations. Such a Board could also coordinate the activities of the institutions whose continuance may be considered necessary.

Government is yet to take a view which will depend on the result of a review of the performance of the various agencies.

Export of Salt

949. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries to which India is exporting salt; and

(b) the quantity of salt exported during the last three years and the amount of foreign exchange earned thereby Government ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) India is exporting salt to Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Malaysia, Tanzania, Singapore, Japan, Hongkong, Uganda, Kenya and Burundi.

(b) The quantity and value of salt exported during the last three years are given below :—

Year	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. Lakhs)
1982-83	322763	411.23
1983-84	540080	787.76
1984-85	248932	334.13

Export of Jewellery

950. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the value of jewellery exported during the years 1983-84 and 1984-85 and likely to be exported during the year 1985-86;

(b) the names of the cities which are

involved in jewellery export and the amount of jewellery exported from each such cities during the above period; and

(c) the names of the agency through which the export is being made ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) The value of gold jeweller exported during 1983-84 and 1984-85 and the target for export during 1985-86 are as under :—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Export during		Target for
1983-84	1984-85	1985-86
8338.19	8609.86	12,500.00

(b) and (c). Exports of gold jewellery are made mainly through associates of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India Ltd. (HHEC) under the scheme for export of gold jewellery against gold supplied by the foreign buyer and directly under the Gold Jewellery Export Promotion and Replenishment Scheme through the Custom House at Bombay/Calcutta/Madras/Delhi/Jaipur. Exports of gold jewellery during 1983-84, 1984-85 and April-September, 1985 from these centres are given below :—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of City	1983-84	1984-85	April-Sept. '85
1	2	3	4
Bombay	7782.12	8408.28	4535.97
New Delhi	597.15	397.21	94.57

1	2	4	3
Jaipur	—	0.12	—
Calcutta	8.39	24.49	19.15
Madras	—	4.36	—
Total :	8337.66	8834.46	4649.69
Return Con- signment	49.47	224.60	250.10
Exports	8338.19	8609.86	4399.59

Trade Protocol between India and U.K.

951. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and U.K. have signed a trade-protocol in London recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Seventh Meeting of the Indo-British Economic Committee was held at London from 11th to 13th September 1985. Matters relating to bilateral trade imbalance, trade promotion programme better access for Indian goods in the EEC markets and industrial cooperation as also collaboration in third country projects were discussed.

Import and Export Trade Position Since 1982

952. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the position of the import and export trade since 1982 till date; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to boost the export trade and discourage the import trade in the Seventh Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) The position

of India's import and export trade since 1981-82 is as below :—

(Value Rs. crores)

Year	Imports	Exports
1981-82	13607.56	7805.90
1982-83	14355.76	8907.75
1983-84	15762.95	9872.10
1984-85*	16812.93	11493.72
April-July, 1985-86 (Provisional)	6021.12	2942.04

*Provisional, updated till July, 1985.

Source : DGCI and S, Calcutta.

(b) Policy measures are being continuously evolved for increasing India's exports. These include measures for increasing and diversifying the production, making our exports more competitive, finding new markets for our products and processing commodities for higher value realisation. Efforts would be made to gear up these measures further during the Seventh Plan period.

The Government has taken a number of policy initiatives in the sphere of trade policies, industrial policies and fiscal policies. The current import-export policy which will be operative for a three year period, 1985-88, is designed to introduce an environment of continuity and stability in foreign trade planning. It aims at providing a major thrust towards increased production, both for domestic consumption and exports, and to bring about efficient import substitution. The Government have also decided to select thrust sectors for export promotion which would make a substantial contribution to growth in exports over the medium term. Public sector undertakings are being involved for greater participation in export efforts. Simultaneous efforts are also being made to step up our indigenous production of importables during the Seventh Five Year Plan period, particularly in the sphere of bulk imports.