

REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON LEATHER

3495. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a task force on leather in its report had suggested ways and means to further boost the export of leather goods;

(b) if so, the incentives recommended by the task force; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c). The Task Force on Leather and Leather Manufactures had, *inter alia*, recommended in 1979 that the incentives like cash compensatory support and air freight subsidy should in the interest of continuity and stability of exports, remain unchanged for a period of three years. In the light of this suggestion, cash compensatory support and air freight subsidy are being allowed on exports of various items of leather goods and the position in respect of these subsidies is reviewed by the Government from time to time. Keeping in view the recommendations of the Task Force to reduce import duties on various chemicals, components and accessories, import duty rates on many exclusive items had been brought down to 40% in February, 1979. In line with the suggestion of the Task Force, import of wet blue leather is presently being allowed on duty free basis with a view to bringing about qualitative upgradation in value added products. The Government has also taken a liberal view in respect of various machines to be imported under OGL for the leather sector. During 1982-83, 96 items of machinery for leather goods, leather footwear and leather apparel have been placed under open general licence for import.

TARGET FOR EXPORT OF LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS

3496. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for export of leather and leather products for the current year;

(b) whether it is a fact that export of E.I. tanned hides and skins, leather footwear and finished leather showed declining trends; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The export target for leather and leather products for the year 1982-83 has been fixed at the level of Rs. 460 crores.

(b) and (c). As per export statistics furnished by the Leather Export Promotion Council, Madras, there was a shortfall in exports during April-May, 1982, as compared to the corresponding period in the previous year, in respect of E.I. Tanned Hides and Skins, leather footwear and finished leather, though the overall export position in respect of leather and leather products had been better to the tune of 9%. The shortfall in exports in individual items is a normal cyclical trade phenomenon, where exports start picking up as the year progresses.

RELUCTANCE OF NATIONALISED BANKS TO OFFER HELP TO FARMERS AND OTHERS IN WEST BENGAL

3497. SHRI SUNIL MAITRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware about the reluctance on the part of the nationalised banks to offer help to farmers, share-croppers, allottees of vested land, artisans and unemployed young people in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Public sector banks are providing help by way of credit to farmers share-croppers, allottees of vested land, artisans and unemployed young people of West Bengal. As at the end of December, 1980 (latest consolidated figures available) the advances by banks to agriculture, small-scale industries and professional and self-employed persons,

in West Bengal amounted respectively to Rs. 137.40 crores, Rs. 232.89 crores and Rs. 8.54 crores. The performance of banks in this regard is reviewed from time to time in different forums and remedial action where called for is taken in consultation with all concerned including State Government.

FUNCTIONING OF RURAL BANKS IN BIHAR

3498. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that rural banks are not functioning in several districts in Bihar;

(b) if so, the number of districts having rural banks and whether there is a proposal for opening a rural bank in all the districts of the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) At present 17 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) covering 26 out of 31 districts are functioning in the State of Bihar. Two more districts namely Patna and Bhagalpur, have been further identified for establishment of new Regional Rural Banks.

SETTING UP OF SPECIAL CELL BY IDBI FOR DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIALLY BACKWARD DISTRICTS

3499. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Industrial Development Bank of India has set up a special cell to take speedy and effective steps for the development of industrially backward districts in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has set up a cell for arranging through Technical Consultancy Organisations (TCOs) industrial potential

surveys of 25 of the 83 industrially backward districts identified by the Government. The ECOs would identify, on a priority basis, industrial potential in small, medium and large scale sectors on the basis of natural and human resources. The immediate improvement needed in basic infra-structural facilities would also be identified. This exercise includes arranging financial, technical and administrative assistance to specific projects where necessary.

EXPORT OF COFFEE SEEDS

3500. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of coffee seeds exported from India to foreign countries during the period 1980-81 and 1981-82;

(b) the countries to which exported;

(c) the amount for which exported;

(d) the foreign exchange earnings on that account; and

(e) the details of exports made by private sector and public sector ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d) The quantity and value of coffee exported from India during 1980-81 and 1981-82 are as under :—

	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (Rs./crores)
1980-81	89270	215.77
1981-82	81220	162.20

Indian Coffee is exported to various consuming countries around the world in North America, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Middle East, South East Asia etc.

(e) The direct exports made by Coffee Board and exports made by private exporters are as follows :

	(in tonnes)	
	Quantity exported 1980-81	1981-82
By Coffee Board		
through Direct Sales	48314	39588
By Private Exporters	40956	41632
Total	89270	81220