

tion of a Government owned company known as Gem India Ltd., should be established.

(xv) In view of the higher ruling prices of gold in the internal market import of gold may be allowed at international prices to registered exporters of gold jewellery against their replenishment.

consideration of the Ministry of Mines and Metals.

[xv] It has been agreed in principle to allow the Handicrafts and Handloom Export Corporation to import gold for export production. A detailed scheme is being worked out in consultation with the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council.

M.M.T.C.'s demand for extra payment equal to New Import duty on non-ferrous metals

1342. SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation has demanded extra payment equal to the new import duties imposed in this year's budget on non-ferrous metals imported prior to 31st May, 1971;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) the reaction of the contracted parties ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (c). The quantities of non-ferrous metals imported till the 29th May, 1971 were sold at the old prices to the extent to which the financial arrangements were made by the actual users before that date.

After the 29th May, 1971, non-ferrous metals were sold at the revised prices. They included marginal quantities of some of the metals which had been imported prior to the 29th May, 1971. This is the usual practice and has also been followed by the Corporation in similar situations in the past.

Export of Woollen Knitwears to USSR

1343. SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether orders for woollen knitwears worth over Rs. 10 crores were declined by the hosiery exporters;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for materialising the export of Woollen knitwears to U.S.S.R. ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) No information regarding declining of orders by Indian hosiery exporters for woollen knitwear worth over Rs. 10 crores has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Export of Finished leather under G.S.P.

1344. SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the advantages that would arise from the Generalised System of Preference of Tariffs so far as leather industry is concerned; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to

augment the finished leather export and to increase leather manufactures inside the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Finished Leather and Semi-tanned Leather has been excluded from the purview of G.S.P. by the E.E.C. countries. But there is goodscope for increasing the export of Leather Manufacturer to the countries who have agreed to Generalised System of Preference of Tariffs.

(b) A statement indicating the important steps taken in this connection is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Government have taken the following steps to augment the finished leather export and to increase the leather manufactures inside the country.

1. Air freight subsidy is being given against the export of finished leather.
2. Though there is 10% export duty on raw hides and skins tanned skins etc., no export duty is levied against the export of finished leather.
3. Under the Registered Exporters' policy, raw materials, chemicals and other components are allowed to be imported against export of finished leather.
4. Export Promotion Council for Finished Leather and Leather Manufactures at Kunpur is assisting the exporters of finished leather for improving quality of products and also for exploring export markets.
5. An industry-wise drawback rates have been fixed against the exports of finished leather.
6. Leather and leathergoods industries are included in the list of priority industries and liberal import of

materials required for production of finished leather which are not indigenously available, is allowed.

7. Liberal import of machinery for balancing, modernisation and replacement is allowed under the Registered Exporters' Policy for this item.
8. The export of raw goat skins has been brought under quota system and the export quota is being progressively reduced. The export quota during 1971 is only 10% of the best year's exports during 1954-58. Exports of raw hides, sheep skins etc. are not allowed generally in order to increase the production of finished leather and leather manufactures in the country.
9. Imports of major raw materials such as raw hides and skins and wattle extract bark etc. has been kept on O.G.L.
10. Setting up capacities for the production of finished leather is being encouraged and letters of intent/licences have been issued to 7 new undertakings for the manufacture of finished leather in the large scale Sector.

रेलवे प्रशासन द्वारा कुलियों को लाइसेंस दिया जाना

1345. श्री आर० बी० बड़े : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि रेलवे प्रशासन ने प्रत्येक रेलवे में कुलियों को कितने-कितने लाइसेंस दिये हैं ?

रेल मंत्री (श्री के० हनुमंतैया) : केवल लायसेन्स-धारी भारिकों को ही, रेल परिसरों में यात्रियों के सामान को लाने ले जाने की अनुमति है जिसकी संख्या विभिन्न रेलों पर इस