

Tariff Concessions for Imports

5547. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether slashing the imports tariff has paved the way for cheaper import of industrial products and other items;

(b) if so, to what extent imports and exports position has improved or will improve the economy of the country during the current year;

(c) whether any monitoring system is being considered by the Government; and

(d) if so, to what extent the imports and exports will be increased after providing these tariff concessions during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Reduction in import tariff and promotion of exports are being carried out as part of the overall process of economic liberalisation and globalisation. Imports are based on the actual requirements for domestic production, consumption and exports and are related to the emerging needs of the growing economy. Based on DGCI&S data, it is observed that exports and imports have shown improvement in recent years as cited below:

(US \$ Million)

Year	Exports	Imports
1993-94	22237	23306
1994-95	26330	28654
1995-96	31797	36678
1996-97	33106	38548
(Provisional)		

(c) The trade performance is being monitored by the Government continuously.

(d) Imports are based on requirements and as such no targets are fixed for imports. Export performance is dependent on a number of factors including inter alia international market conditions, tariff and non-tariff barriers, domestic supportive infrastructure, cost of export credit etc. Export Promotion measures taken by the Government include changes in policies and procedures to provide for export friendly environment, involvement of States in export promotion, consultation with trade and industry for initiation of general and sector specific remedial measures as warranted from time to time.

[Translation]

Exim Policy

5548. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take any measures with the aim of increasing exports alongwith simplifying the procedure of new Export Import Policy (Exim Policy) during the Ninth Five Year Plan in comparison to the steps taken by the Government to increase the export during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Export promotion is a continuous process and steps taken are initiated by the Government to promote exports through simplification of policy and procedure, improving bilateral trade, debottlenecking of the infrastructure, involvement of States in export promotion, consultation with trade and industry for initiation of general and sector specific remedial measures as warranted from time to time. In the new Exim Policy coterminus with the 9th Five Year Plan the Government has focussed on making the procedures transparent and less discretionary. Considerable automaticity has been introduced in the procedures.

[English]

South-Eastern Coalfields Ltd.

5549. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether South-Eastern Coalfields Ltd., and the Steel Authority of India Ltd., are carrying out mining operations in Madhya Pradesh without any licence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government to regularise them by entering into a formal lease agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL) is operating three mines on the basis of working permission granted by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh as per details given below:-

Name of Mines	Notification No. with date	
Pali UG	3/88/80/12	dated 22.10.1980
Bhadra UG	4008/1636/XII	dated 14.05.1980
Govinda UG	4005/1788/XII	dated 11.05.1980

The terms and conditions governing all the three working permissions are given below:-

(i) The date of lease will be recognised from the date of issue of working permission.

(ii) Any compensation payable to any tenant or Government will be paid by the applicant.