

*foreign trade 199-10*  
**Imports and Exports**

49. SHRI BHAGEY GOBAR-DHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the value of imports has always exceeded the value of exports during the last ten years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to boost exports to improve the balance of payments position; and

(d) the areas or countries targetted and items identified for boosting exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Higher levels of import have been effected to meet the requirement of essential commodities for domestic consumption and for export production, to maintain higher levels of investment and production and to ensure modernisation and technological upgradation of Indian industry.

(c) The Government have recently introduced far reaching reforms in the export-import policy aimed at reducing bureaucratic control through licensing, strengthening export incentives and linking import capability in a wide range of imports to export earnings.

(d) In view of the current balance of payments position, special thrust is being given for increasing export earnings from countries in General Currency Area. While continuing the emphasis on exports to Europe and America, efforts are made to pene-

trate more in the markets of Asia, and Africa. In so far as items are concerned, fifteen (15) broad sectors have been identified for making special thrust in all our markets abroad. These are: (1) Tea, especially in package and value-added forms; (2) Cereals, in particular wheat; (3) Processed foods, including fruits and juices, meat and meat products and fresh fruits & vegetables; (4) Marine products, especially in value-added forms; (5) Iron ore; (6) Leather and leather manufactures; with an emphasis on the latter; (7) Handicrafts and jewellery; (8) Capital goods and consumer durables; (9) Electronic goods and computer software; (10) Basic chemicals; (11) Fabrics; piece-goods and made-ups; (12) Ready-made garments; (13) Woollen fabrics and knitwear; (14) Projects and services; and (15) Granite.

Trade Relations

50. SHRI BHAGEY GOBAR-DHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the types of trade relationships existing between India and foreign countries like the U.K., U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Belgium, Japan and Germany;

(b) whether there is scope for further expansion of trade with these countries;

(c) if so, the steps taken to promote such expansion; and

(d) the main items of imports for which India continues to be dependent on these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) A statement is given below

STATEMENT

Name of the country	The type of Trade relationship	Whether scope for further expansion of Trade and the steps taken to promote such expansion	The main items of imports for which India continues to be dependent
1 U.K., Belgium, Germany, Japan and United States	2 All these countries are members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and trade with these countries is carried out within the frame-work of GATT rules. Trade is conducted in free foreign exchange.	3 There is good scope for expansion of trade with these countries. The steps taken to promote and expand trade include regular inter-action at Official International Trade Fair, Exhibitions, sponsoring of Trade Delegations, Holding of Buyer Seller Meets, Market surveys etc. At bilateral and multilateral negotiations, these countries are being constantly requested to reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers on products of export interest to India such as Textiles and clothing.	4 U.K.: Pearls, Precious, Semi-precious stones. Machinery except Electric Machine Tool. Project Goods Metaliferous ores and Metal scrap. Iron & Steel. Electrical Machinery . Professional Instrument Optical goods etc. Organic Chemicals Transport Equipment. Non-Ferrous metals.
			<p>Belgium: Pearls, Precious and Semi-precious stones. Metaferous Ores and Metal scrap. Iron and Steel Machinery except Electric and Machine tool. Synthetic and Reclaimed Rubber. Artificial Resins material etc. Project goods Professional Instrument Optical goods etc. Non-Ferrous Meals</p> <p>Germany: Machinery except Electric and Machine tools. Project Goods, Iron and Steel Organic Chemicals.</p>

Electric machinery, Professional Instrument, Optical goods etc., Fertilizers Manufactured, Machine tools, Metalliferous ores and metal scraps, Manufactures of Metals.

*Japan:* Machinery, Iron & Steel Textile Yarn, Organic Chemicals, Artificial Resins, Plastic Materials etc.

*United States :* Pulp and Waste Paper, Metalliferous ores and Metal scrap, Fertilizers manufactured, Organic & Inorganic Chemicals, Artificial Resins, Plastic material etc., Pearls, Precious and Semi-precious stones, Iron and Steel, Transport equipment, Project goods, Professional Instrument, Optical goods etc.

**U.S.S.R.**

Trade is carried on in non-convertible Indian Rupee on a balanced basis. Imports by India are paid in Rupee which are used by USSR to buy goods for export to Soviet Union.

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Crude Oil and Oil Products, Ferrous and Non-ferrous metals, Chemical, newsprint and fertilizers, machinery.