

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2411
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2000
EXPORT IMPORT
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the export-import trend of the country during the last six months;
- (b) the main leading export commodities and the amount of export made of these during the above period; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to boost the export of different commodities and particularly of gem, jewellery and textiles during the next two years?

Answer

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) As per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics provisional data, exports during April-January, 2000 has been valued at US \$ 30221.41 million registering a growth of 11.32% over the same period last year. Imports for this period were valued at US \$ 38142.09 million registering a 9.05% growth over the same period of last year.

(b) As per the provisional April-November, 1999 data, details for which are available, the main items of exports and their value is as under:-

(US \$ Million)

Items	
April-Nov.1999	
Plantations	
501	
Agri and allied products	
2230	
Marine products	
771	
Ores and minerals	
514	
Leather and manufactures	
1028	
Gems and jewellery	
4761	
Sports goods	
46	
Chemicals and related products	
2969	
Engineering goods	
2958	
Electronic hardware	
384	
Textiles	
5814	
Handicrafts	
497	
Carpets	
408	

(c) A number of steps have been taken to further enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and regions.

Some of the important incentives announced for the gem & jewellery sector include

(i) permission to Export Oriented Units (EOUs)/Export Processing Zones units (EPZs) to import plain gold, platinum and silver jewellery for repairs/remake and export subject to a minimum NFEP of 7.5%. In such cases of export, wastage of 2% may be permitted,

- (ii) permission to foreign buyers for personal carriage of gems & jewellery from all EOUs and EPZs units and also from units located in Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) in Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai,
- (iii) permission for duty free import of consumables upto 1% of the Free on Board (FOB) value of the export of the preceding year under the replenishment licences. Some of the measures to promote textiles exports are the following
 - (i) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme has been made operational with effect from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and Upgradation of this sector,
 - (ii) The New Export Entitlement (Quota) Policy for the period 2000-2004 has been announced recently to provide stability and continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.
 - (iii) Exports of cotton yarn by Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Export Promotion Zone (EPZ)/EPCG units has been liberalised.