

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3137  
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2000  
RESTRUCTURING OF LEATHER INDUSTRY  
GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA

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

whether our leather industry needs re-orientation and restructuring for growth to face increasing competition from; other Asian countries like China, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam; and if so, the steps being considered to restructure the leather industry so that the growth of this industry is ensured?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
DR. RAMAN SINGH

a & b) Re-orientation and re-structuring of Indian Leather Industry is an ongoing process keeping in view its inherent potential of export and employment. In the scenario of liberalisation and globalisation, the Government, as a facilitator, has initiated various steps under the ongoing UNDP-assisted Small Industries Development & Employment Programme in Leather Sector (SIDE-NLDP) and a Pilot Scheme, Indian leather Development Programme (ILDLP) which include the following: Tannery Modernisation Scheme has been launched w.e.f. 18.1.2000 which aims at increasing the quality and productivity of leather – the basic raw material for the manufacture of value added goods. To attract foreign buyers and investors, Intechmarts (one-to-one business meetings) are being sponsored during the International Leather Fairs held annually at Chennai, Calcutta and Delhi. Decentralised Common Facility Centres and Design Studios for leather goods and footwear have been set up in Kanpur, Delhi, Calcutta, Bhopal, Jabalpur and Hyderabad to make the products of Indian manufacturers globally competitive. Government is supporting the footwear component industry in all possible ways. This industry which is at nascent stage has scope for growth.