

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:198
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2001
EXPORT TO EU COUNTRIES
MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;RENUKA CHOWDHURY

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

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- (a) whether the European Union countries propose to open up custom free access to exports from the 48 least developed countries;
 - (b) if so, India`s exports to these countries during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and (
 - (c) the extent to which the Euro-move is likely to affect India`s exports to European Union?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

- (a) : Yes, Sir. Under their `Everything But Arms` (EBA) proposal, the European Union has opened up duty free access to exports from 48 Least Developed Countries. This initiative is effective from 5/3/2001, with provision for longer transition period in case of sugar, rice and bananas.
- (b): India`s exports to European Union countries during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 amounted to US\$ 9,337.41 million and US\$ 10,362.58 million respectively.
- (c): The EBA initiative could be an opportunity to Indian trade and industry for setting up of new production capacities and investment opportunities in LDC countries.