

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3041
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2001
EXPORT PERFORMANCE IN COMPARISON TO NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

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(a) whether our total exports do not compare favourably even with much smaller countries like Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore;

(b) if so, the reasons for lagging far behind in the matter of exports vis-à-vis our neighbours; and (

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase our exports?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) to (c) : As per the WTO Trade Statistics, the value of exports of Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and India during 1999 are given as below:

(US\$ (Billion))

Singapore	114.7
Thailand	58.4
Indonesia	48.7
India	36.6 (44.1 in 2000-01 as per DGCI&S data)

Export performance, inter alia, is influenced by international market conditions, export competitiveness of the domestic industry, and that of the competitors in other countries etc. However, during 2000-01 the total merchandise exports from India has risen by 19.83% over the previous year thereby exceeding the target of 18% set for the year.

A number of steps have been taken to further enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralization, setting up SEZs, simplification of procedures, extending the EPCG schemes to all sectors and all capital goods without any threshold limit on payment of 5% duty and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy which includes setting up of Agricultural Export Zones, Market Access initiatives to assist the industry in R&D efforts, market research etc. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions.