

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:243
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2000
EXPORT OF TRADITIONAL ITEMS
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

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

- (a) whether the exports of traditional items like tea, coffee, rice, leather, and minerals have declined during the last one year, till date;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken to protect the exports of traditional items; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) & (b) As per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics provisional data, the exports of tea, coffee, rice, leather and ores and minerals during April-Oct, 1999-2000 as compared to the same period last year are as follows:

(US \$ Million)

Items	April-Oct 1998-99	April-Oct 1999-2000
Tea	325	261
Coffee	284	189
Rice	807	384
Leather & manufactures	956	883
Ores & Minerals	455	438

The reasons for decline in exports are international factors such as recession in the world market, economic crisis in South-East Asian countries, Russian and some of the Latin American countries, infrastructural constraints, other impediments like low unit value realisation, lower production and increased domestic demand for items like tea.

(c) & (d) A number of steps taken to protect the exports of traditional items 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 bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions, participation in major trade fairs etc.