

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1650
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2003
EXPORT OF IRON ORE
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

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

- (a) the countries which are importing iron ore from India;
- (b) the quantum of iron ore exported to those countries during each of the last three years;
- (c) whether any country particularly China wants to buy more iron ore from India;
- (d) if so, the details of the proposal received from China; and
- (e) the other countries to which iron ore export is proposed to be increased in 2003-04?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) & (b) The major countries which are importing Iron Ore from India and the quantum of Iron Ore exported to them during the last three years are as follows:-

(Quantity: Million Tonnes)

COUNTRY	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03		
CHINA	14.10	19.22	26.27		
JAPAN	16.77	15.62	15.75		
SOUTH KOREA	2.31	3.00	2.41		
TAIWAN	0.90		0.43	0.58	
EUROPE		1.48		1.81	2.04
OTHERS (including Pakistan and Middle-East countries)	1.93	1.56	1.00		
TOTAL	37.49		41.64		48.02

[SOURCE: MMTC]

(c) & (d) Sir, China has, of late, become a major importer of Indian iron ores. Indian iron ore export to China has gone up from 7.45 million tonnes in 1998-99 to 26.27 million tonnes in 2002-03. In fact, the growth in Indian iron ore export during the last five years has been possible with the increased exports to China. The Chinese demand for increased iron ore exports from India continues for the present also. As against export of 12.64 million tonnes during April-October, 2002, a quantity of 15.98 million tonnes has been exported during the same period of Financial Year, 2003, thereby registering an increase of 26.42%. This indicates the increased demand by China for Indian iron ore. This is likely to continue in the year 2003-04 and subsequent years also

(e) MMTC, the designated State Trading Enterprise (STE) for export of high grade iron ore has so far not received any request from other countries to increase the Iron Ore exports in 2003-2004. However, the export of iron ore to China which is currently at the level of 26-27 million tonnes is likely to continue in the year 2003-04 also. Besides this, the traditional importers of Indian iron ore viz. Japan and South Korea will maintain their off-take at the current level of 15-16 million tonnes and 2-3 million tonnes respectively, as the supply is guided by the Long Term Contracts.