

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:580

ANSWERED ON:06.02.2017

Ban on Import of Exotic Skins of Reptiles and Furs of Animals

Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao;Patil Shri Vijaysinh Mohite;Sule Smt. Supriya Sadanand

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

- (a) whether various Animal Rights Activists/Government Departments have made several representations seeking ban on the import of skins of exotic reptiles like crocodiles and alligators and furs of certain animals including foxes and minks which are used to manufacture leather or for fur clothing and accessories;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government on these representations;
- (c) whether banning such imports is not likely to affect manufacturers of leather and clothing accessories and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in the interest of manufacturers of leather and clothing accessories?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) to (c): Representations seeking ban on import of skins of exotic reptiles and furs of certain animals have been received from Ms. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, Minister for Women and Child Development and Ms. Poonam Mahajan, MP (LS) and organisations like Animal Welfare Board of India, Beauty Without Cruelty and People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

Government, having examined the concerns and issues involved, has issued a Notification (No 33/ 2015-20 dated January 3, 2017) prohibiting import of items under EXIM Codes 4113 3000, 4301 1000, 4301 6000, 4302 1100 and fur of Chinchilla. Trade in items against the above EXIM codes were nil to minimal and these being fur and skin products of sensitive mammals and reptiles imports of these items were "Prohibited".

(d) : The following measures have been taken to promote leather industry in the country:

(i) Rs. 1032.23 Crore have been spent under Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDLP) during XIth Five Year Plan till date. ILDP aims at augmenting raw material base through modernization and technology up-gradation of leather units, addressing environmental concerns, human resource development, supporting traditional leather artisans, addressing infrastructure constraints and establishing institutional facilities. In addition to assistance under ILDP as mentioned above, the following steps have also been taken up by government to promote Leather Industry in the country:

(a) Rs. 495 Crore has been sanctioned by Department of Commerce for construction of new branches at Guna, Patna, Hyderabad, up-gradation of Chhindwara Branch and Computer Networking Centre of FDDI.

(b) Rs. 765 Lakh has been sanctioned by Department of Commerce under Market Access Initiative (MAI) scheme and Rs. 297.93 Lakh under Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) scheme for marketing programmes and activities during 2016-17.

(c) Rs. 57.11 Crores has been sanctioned by Department of Commerce under Assistance to State for Infrastructure Development of Exports (ASIDE) scheme for creation of common infrastructure facilities.

(d) Various other measures implemented for leather sector include no import duty on hides & skins, semi-processed as well as finished leather, raw and tanned furskins; duty free import of Machinery under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme; duty free import of notified inputs to the extent of 3% of Free on Board (FOB) value of export in previous year under Duty Free Import Scheme (DFIS); No excise duty on footwear of MRP up to Rs. 500/-, 6% excise on footwear of MRP over Rs. 500 and up to Rs. 1000 and for leather footwear of MRP over Rs. 1000 along with 30% abatement

(e) Permission for 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under automatic route in leather sector

(f) MSME units in leather sector are eligible for reduction in interest rates on rupee export credit to the extent of 3% under Interest Equalization Scheme

(g) Leather products and footwear components are also entitled to 3% scrip under Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS).

(h) The export of finished leather and leather products get All Industry Rates of duty drawback
