

[English]

Handicraft Export Target Achievement

1652. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed and achieved during the last three years in regard to handicraft export;

(b) the target fixed for the current year and target achieved so far;

(c) whether some important lesser known-craft in the international market like Zari work, Shawls, Cane and Bamboo-craft and Chiken Kari Craft needs special attention to boost export of handicrafts;

(d) if so, whether the Government have asked Handicraft Commissioner to prepare strategy to boost the export of this craft; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The target fixed and achieved during the last three years on export of handicrafts (including hand-knotted carpets) is as under :-

(Rs. in crores)			
S.No.	Year	Target	Achieved
1.	1995-96	4850.00	4980.15
2.	1996-97	5660.00	5682.62
3.	1997-98	6500.00	6457.69 (Provisional)

(b) A target of Rs. 7776.00 crores has been fixed for the export of handicrafts (including handknotted carpets) during the current financial year i.e. 1998-99. The achievement during the month of April 1998 has been to the tune of Rs. 514.55 crores.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. In consultation with Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, Development Commissioner for Handicrafts has initiated action to promote some lesser known crafts through measures like seminars/workshops, training and marketing programmes etc.

Boosting Export

1653. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's policy for boosting export sector has been greatly opposed by the small exporters;

(b) if so, whether the small exporters have pointed out that the Reserve Bank of India has turned down the long pending demands of the Exporters;

(c) if so, whether the new credit policy measures would boost large corporations and tripple A rated companies but the policy is a complete let down for small medium sized exporters who contribute direct exports of nearly 40%;

(d) if so, whether the Government has considered the views of the small exporters; and

(e) if so, to what extent their demands are being considered?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no discrimination for small or large exporters in the credit policy dated 29th April 1998 announced by Reserve Bank of India.

(d) and (e) In the recently announced Export Import Policy, the Government has addressed the long standing demand of the small and medium exporters such as simplifying and expanding the scope of Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme. The threshold limit has now been reduced from Rs. 20 crores/Rs. 5 crores to Rs. 1 crore. Further the private bonded warehouse scheme has been initiated to facilitate supply of imported raw materials to exporters importing raw materials in small quantities. In addition, a number of issues relating to credit needs of small scale sector has been addressed in the budget for the current financial year. Policy review is a continuous process and is based on inter-action with trade and industry associations.

[Translation]

Development of Coal Mines

1654. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to develop some coal mines with World Bank loan;

(b) if so, the number of coal mines identified for the development; and

(c) the amount of World Bank loan expected to be obtained for the development of those coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project of Coal India Limited comprising of 24 projects in five of its coal