

(a) whether there has been substantial increase in import and decline in export during the last three years, particularly during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the sectors in which export has declined during the said period;

(d) whether the State Governments are likely to be involved in the efforts of export growth;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have received representation to adopt three pronged strategy to remove procedural hurdles and reversing the export slide;

(g) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(h) the other steps taken by the Government to boost the export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) As per the available Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics data import and export for the last three years are as under:

US \$ Million

Year	Imports	Exports
1996-97	39132	33470
1997-98(P)	40779	33980
Apr.-Nov. 98-99 (P)	28177	21476

(P) Provisional

According to the latest data available there has been an increase in overall imports due to an increase in imports primarily of gold and silver, project goods and edible oil. During April-November, 1998-99, exports of agricultural and allied products, marine products, ores and minerals, leather and manufactures, sports goods, chemicals and related products, engineering goods, electronics (hardware), project goods, cotton yarn fabrics made-ups, man made textiles made ups, wool and woollen

manufactures and Jute manufactures, carpets, cotton raw incl. waste and petroleum products have shown negative growth in dollar terms. The declaration in exports is mainly due to South East Asian crisis and World wide recession.

(d) to (h) Export promotion measures are continuously being taken by the Government through changes in policies and procedures for providing and export friendly environment. State Governments are involved in export production and development of infrastructure in consultation with trade and industry. A number of steps have been taken to promote exports which include lowering of interest rates on export credit, reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation and simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. The Government is according high priority to exports and all necessary steps are being taken to put exports on high growth trajectory.

#### Protest of China on Anti-Dumping Cases

1537. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has made a strong protest with India over the increasing number of anti-dumping cases being slapped on Chinese exports; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) China has made a protest with India over the anti-dumping case related to Met coke. It has alluded to the increasing number of anti-dumping investigations initiated by the Indian authorities concerned against Chinese commodities over the past two years.

(b) Under the Indian Anti-Dumping Laws, investigations are carried out by the Designated Authority after taking into account the views and submissions made by all interested parties, including the Governments of the exporting countries. In the case of Met coke, as in all the other anti-dumping cases against China till date, the Designated Authority has issued findings after considering views expressed by all parties, including the Chinese Government.