

(b) whether Government have explored the possibility of increasing the export of 'bidi'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) The foreign exchange earned from the port of bidis and bidi tobacco during the last three years:

<i>Qty: in tonnes</i>			<i>Val: in Rs. /lakhs</i>	
<i>Export of bidis</i>			<i>Export bidi tobacco in the form of flakes</i>	
	<i>Qty.</i>	<i>Val.</i>	<i>Qty.</i>	<i>Val.</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
1987-88	268	224.31	158.0	13.27
1988-89	462	210.39	6.2	1.35
1989-90	1478	290.20	131.8	19.92

(b) In order to explore the possibility of increasing the export of tobacco products, including bidis, the Tobacco Board had organised market surveys through the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi in the Middle East and Asian Countries and also in the USA, Canada and Select West European countries. A delegation was also sponsored by the Tobacco Board to select Middle East countries. Various types of bidis are also displayed at the fairs and exhibitions held abroad for promoting export of bidis.

Duty Exemption on Imported Medicines

7468. SHRI KALPNATH SONKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have granted customs duty exemption to certain imported medicines during the year 1990-91; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b). Government have not

granted exemption from customs duty during the financial year 1990-91 upto now to any imported medicine.

Set Back to Leather Exports to West Germany

7469. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether leather export to West Germany has received a set back;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it has affected adversely the Indian leather industry; and

(d) the steps taken to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) to (d). No, Sir. Leather and Leather Product exports to the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) during