

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (डॉ० बोला-बुल्ली रामैया): (क) और (ख) जी हां। गेहूँ के उत्पादन में कमी तथा इसके फलस्वरूप 1996-97 के दौरान गेहूँ की खरीद में गिरावट तथा घरेलू बाजार में गेहूँ तथा गेहूँ के उत्पादों की कीमतों में वृद्धि के रुख को देखते हुए सरकार ने देश में गेहूँ की उपलब्धता में वृद्धि करने के लिए 20 लाख मी. टन गेहूँ का आयात करने का निर्णय लिया है।

(ग) और (घ) स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन से कहा गया है कि वह प्राधिकृत मात्रा में गेहूँ के आयात हेतु उपाय करे। एस टी सी ने अब तक 16.75 लाख मी.टन गेहूँ का आयात करने के लिए संविदा की है। इसमें से 20.2.97 तक लगभग 3.83 लाख मी.टन गेहूँ पहले ही भारतीय पत्तों पर पहुंच चुका है। रोलर फ्लोर मिल्स को भी गेहूँ के उत्पादों की घरेलू बिक्री के लिए वर्ष 1996-97 के दौरान गेहूँ का आयात करने की अनुमति दी गई थी।

(ङ) एस टी सी ने 148 अमरीकी डालर से 152.50 अमरीकी डालर एफ. ओ.बी तथा 173 अमरीकी डालर सी आई एफ की दर से संविदा की है। इस आयात के लिए लगभग 1043 करोड़ रुपए का अनुमानित व्यय होगा।

Tea production & export during current financial year

139. SHRI O.S. MANIAN:

SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tea export has gone down during the current financial year so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether tea production in the country has gone down during the same period; and

(d) the steps Government has taken to increase the production as well as export of tea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) While exports of tea during April-November, 1996 have shown a marginal decline in quantity terms as compared to the corresponding period of previous year, in value terms these have been higher as indicated below:—

Period	Qty. (Mn. Kgs.)	Value (Rs. Crores)
*April-Nov. 1996	106.09	816.53
*April-Nov., 1995	110.57	779.53

*Estimated Source : Tea Board.

(b) Decline in exports in Quantity terms so far has been on account of lower imports of tea by Russia under the debt repayment route and lower exports to Poland, Ukraine, Egypt etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In order to increase production of tea, Tea Board has been operating various developmental schemes to encourage activities such as replantation, extension planting, setting up of new plantations, assistance to small growers in extension activities and research & development.

In respect of exports to Russia under the debt repayment route, a proposal for exports of tea to Russia on consignment basis has been approved. Also, Chairman Tea Board has visited Poland recently and held discussions with the tea importers for sourcing higher imports of Indian tea.

Other steps taken to increase exports of Indian tea include (i) participation in major trade fairs/exhibitions abroad; (ii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness of speciality of Indian tea and campaign to popularise the Tea Board marketing symbol which stands for pure Indian tea. Tea Board has also undertaken Grand promotion schemes in a number of countries to popularise specific classic Indian teas and also have launched

Darjeeling and Assam Logo Campaigns in U.K.

Targeted imports

140. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the targeted rate of imports during the year 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the actual rate of import during the period April-November, 1996 vis-a-vis the same period last year; and

(c) the rate of import likely to be reached during the fiscal year 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Imports are made as per requirements. No targets are set for imports. Import growth during April-November, 1996 is estimated at 4.72% in dollar terms over the corresponding period of last year as per data available from the DGCI&S.

Poor performance of country's foreign trade

141. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country's both export and import position continue to decline;

(b) if so, whether any critical assessment of the poor performance of the country's foreign trade has been made by Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof stating the estimated decline in the exports and imports during the last one year;

(d) the sectors in which country's exports suffered the most stating the estimated loss in foreign exchange earnings; and

(e) the strategy, if any, formulated by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Sir, as per DGCI&S data the country's exports and imports in the recent period is given below:

Value: (US \$ Million)

Year	Exports	Imports
1994-95	26330	28654
1995-96	31797	36678
April-Dec'95	22757	26292
April-Dec'96	24205	27452

It is noted that export performance is steadily increasing in recent years and imports are as per requirements. Export performance is influenced *inter alia* by international market conditions, supportive infrastructure and the policy framework. Export promotion measures are continuously taken by Govt. through policies & procedures for providing an export friendly environment, interaction with Trade & Industry and involvement of State Governments in export promotion.

Trade deficit in current financial year

142. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's exports in November-December, 1995 had registered a negative growth leading to the trade deficit during the current financial year exceed \$ 3 billion;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check further decline in exports from India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) As per DGCI&S data, India's exports