

(b) if so, the names of the principal foreign countries to which India's exports had gone up during the last three years;

(c) whether any comprehensive action plan has been drawn up during the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the targets to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The principal countries to which our exports have gone up include USA, Japan, UK, Germany, Hongkong, UAE, Belgium, Russia, Bangladesh, Italy, Singapore, Netherlands and France.

(c) and (d) An 18–20% growth in dollar terms is projected during the current year under a focussed strategy of addressing select markets and select products besides exploring new opportunities and emerging markets.

Shortage of Pig Iron in Gujarat

***519. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:** Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the shortage of pig iron in Gujarat State has led to crisis in foundries there;

(b) the requirements of pig iron for foundries in Gujarat State;

(c) the allocation made by Government so far; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for allocation of more quantity of pig iron to the State for smooth functioning of the Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHAYA):

(a) No report has been received regarding shortage of pig iron in Gujarat State at present.

(b) and (c) For meeting the requirements of pig iron for Small Scale Industries (including foundries) in the various States, allocations are made by the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel (DCI&S) to the Small Scale Industries Corporation of the State concerned, keeping in view its demand, past offtake and availability of pig iron from the main producers. The allocations made by the DCI&S to Gujarat Small Industries Corporation (GSIC) for distribution to Small Scale Units in Gujarat and actual offtake against this allocation during the last 3 years was as under:

	In lakh tonnes	
	Allocation	Offtake
1993-94	1.29	0.60
1994-95	1.40	0.59
1995-96	0.80	0.02

Allocation to GSIC for 1996-97 (April '96 – September '96) is 40,000 tonnes. Apart from supplies made through the Small Industries Corporation, the consumer industries also take pig iron directly from main producers. Besides the main producers, pig iron is also supplied directly by the secondary producers.

(d) As per the information available from Government of Gujarat, availability of pig iron in Gujarat, at present, is adequate. In order to augment the supply further, allocation made by the Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel can be increased, if required.

Assessment of Gold Deposits in Karnataka

***520. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBAHAJIRAO SHINDE:** Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh deposits of gold have been detected in Chitradurga and Sandur districts of Karnataka;

(b) the details of these deposits indicating the extent of the gold reserves; and