

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. While four foreign banks have valued ITDC properties, no similar evaluation was undertaken departmentally.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) The Evaluation of ITDC properties by four foreign banks is an independent evaluation which can be used as an indicative figure for raising resources, planning investment and determining economic returns to the Corporation.

Ban on the establishment of tea and sugar industry in Arunachal Pradesh

483. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Arunachal Pradesh has banned the establishment of tea and sugar industries in the State by the local entrepreneurs in collaboration with "Outsiders"; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With a view to protecting the interest of Arunachalees and preventing exploitation and monopoly by others, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh have decided by an order dated 9th July, 1991 that the tea and sugar industries venture should be wholly owned by Arunachalee entrepreneurs only.

Introduction of a new trade and commerce policy

484. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any significant change in the trend of imports and exports after the introduction of new trade and commerce policy;

(b) what is the total volume of exports and imports during the years 1990-91 and 1991-92; and

(c) what special efforts have been made by Government to improve the export of textile goods, artificial diamond, gold ornaments, sugar, indigenous goods and other important goods?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) The new Export-Import Policy for the years 1992-1997 was announced on 31st March, 1992 and came into force with effect from 1st April, 1992. A few changes in the policy in the form of 'cleaning up' the text of the policy were announced on 1st July, 1992, after considering the feed-back received from industry and trade. The fundamental feature of the new policy is freedom in the field of foreign trade. It substantially eliminated Licensing, Quantitative restrictions and other regulatory and discretionary control. All goods might be freely imported and exported save for two Negative Lists. The trade and industry circles have welcomed the policy. It is too early to assess the changes in the trend of imports and exports after the introduction of new policy, as only one month's data (April 1992) is since available.

(b) The total volume of exports and imports during the years 1990-91 and 1991-92, in Rupees crores, are given below:—

	1990-91	1991-92
Export	32553.34	43978.26
Imports	43192.86	47812.75

(c) Several changes in trade policy were introduced since July 1991 aimed at strengthening export incentives, eliminating a substantial volume of import licensing and rationalising the import tariff structure. In the Budget for 1992-93, rupee was made partially convertible to encourage generation of foreign exchange and export of value added items. These have been further consolidated in the new Export-Import Policy announced on 31st March, 1992 and revised on July 1, 1992, which, *inter-alia*, aims to promote the productivity, modernisation and competitiveness of Indian industry and thereby to enhance its export capabilities. The Government has also announced a 5-point Action Plan for boosting exports during 1992-93. These include formation of a national plan for export promotion of 34 commodities identified as "Extreme focus sectors", launching of a National Quality Awareness Programme, one to one meeting with export houses and leading industrial houses, launching of a world wide effort to revamp our external commercial representations, improve external publicity and undertake export promotion for our products in 40-50 select countries, reorganisation of the Office of Chief Controller of Imports and Exports from the present form of a regulatory authority to a promotional body, etc. Besides, the Government has taken other steps which include reducing controls through licensing, simplification of procedures for export, activation of Board of Trade, bilateral discussion with select countries, interaction with national organisations of Trade and Industry.

In so far as sector specific measures are concerned, it may be mentioned that capital goods have been made freely importable, without any restrictions in the new policy. Second hand capital goods are allowed to be imported without a licence for certain specified sectors including Garments / Hosiery / Madeups; Leather Processing / Leather Finishing / Leather goods manufacturing / Leather Apparel manufacturing; sports goods; Forged hand tools; Sea foods, etc. Special export promotion schemes have also been formulated for export of gold and silver jewellery, as a part of the new Export and Import Policy. However, it may be mentioned

that export of agro-based items like sugar depend on the availability of surpluses for export.

Export of farm products

@485. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the share of farm products in total exports during the year 1991-92;

(b) what are the principal items exported from the farm sector;

(c) whether it is a fact that export of agricultural products have resulted in scarcity in the domestic market, causing hardship to the commonman; and

(d) whether Government propose to discourage the export of agricultural products commonly used by poor sections?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) and (b) Important farm products being exported from India at present are cereals, fruits and vegetables, sugar, cashew, tobacco, spices, cotton, oilseeds etc. According to the provisional figures of exports published by DGCI & S, exports of these farm products amounted to approximately Rs. 4,600 crores during 1991-92, out of the total export from India of Rs. 43,823 crores.

(c) and (d) Export of items of mass consumption, such as wheat, rice and sugar are subject to ceilings fixed, having regard to surpluses available after meeting domestic needs.

@Previously Unstarred Question 257, transferred from the 10th July, 1992.