

1992 as compared to US dollar 2777 million during April-May 1991. India's imports amounted to US dollar 3612 million during April-May 1992 as compared to US dollar 2896 million during April-May 1991.

(c) According to provisional data, the principal commodities which registered a decline during April-May 1992 as compared to April-May 1991 include tea, tobacco, spices, iron ore, jute manufactures, etc. The reasons for decline include the fall in the commodity prices in the world market in respect of tea and spices lower forecast of steel production and large inventory of iron ore in Japan in respect of iron ore competition from synthetic substitutes in respect of jute manufactures, etc.

(d) 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. Rupee has been made partially convertible to encourage generation of foreign, exchange. These steps have been further consolidated in the new Export-Import Policy which, inter alia, aims to promote productivity, modernisation and competitiveness of Indian industry and thereby to enhance its export capabilities.

Introduction of Foreign Brand Names to boost tea exports

4193. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has advised the tea manufacture in the country to introduce foreign brand names to boost tea exports;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Indian brand names in tea is also catching up the World Market; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for Government's suggestion to introduce foreign brand names?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) While no specific advice regarding use of foreign brand names has been given, the possible use of foreign brand names is one of the elements of a strategy for boosting value added tea exports certain Indian brand name have become popular in some markets, however strategies will vary from market to market. It is for private exporters to decide whether foreign brand names would help them in boosting their value added exports in some of the markets where brand loyalties are already strongly established.

Action Plan to boost exports

4194. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have prepared an action plan to boost exports for the remainder of the current financial year; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the plan and the target to be achieved?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Since July 1991, a series of trade re-forms have been initiated with the aim of boosting exports. These measures have been further consolidated in the Central Budget for 1992-93, wherein a system of partial convertibility of Rupee has been introduced. the new Export-Import Policy for 1992-97 inter alia aims to promote productivity, modernisation and competitiveness of Indian industry and thereby to enhance its export capabilities. Besides, the Government is working on formulating an action plan to boost exports in the medium and long term, based on the recommendations contained in the Report submitted to the Government in respect of the 34 Extreme Focus Product Groups. These broadly relate to (i) policy, (ii) procedures (iii) infrastructure and (iv) Institutional mechanism. The export target for the