

The prospects for 1992-93 would be guided by the different market forces in both the countries viz., exportable surplus, demand-supply position, price competitiveness, etc. The liberalised Export-Import Policy would enable free trade in certain items like newsprint, fertilizers, etc.

(d) During the last six months, India has signed Trade Agreements on Trade, Economic relations and Science and Technology with the Republics of Kazakhstan & Kyrgyzstan. Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreements have also been signed with the Governments of Ukraine, Turkmenistan and Russian Federation. In addition, a Protocol has also been signed with China *for* resumption of border trade.

India's Trade Position

4200. SHRI SOM PAL:

DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to two news items that have appeared in the Times of India of the 22nd and 24th July, 1992 respectively stating that our exports in dollar terms have declined and that our imports in dollar terms

have registered a steep rise in recent months;

(b) if so, what are the figures in dollars and item-wise break up and the trends as compared to the preceding three years;

(c) what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what measures have been initiated or are contemplated to rectify this negative phenomenon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHUIKSHEED): (a) The Government is aware of the news item that appeared in the Times of India on 24th July 1992 under the caption Trade deficit up as imports surge in April-May". The news item basically analysed the trends in India's foreign trade during April-May 92.

(b) It is presumed that hon'ble Member is interested in figures of India's export and import during April-May 1992 in US Dollar terms and the trends as compared to the corresponding period of the preceding three years. The details, separately for exports and imports are given below:

(US 3 Million)

	Apr.-May 89	Apr.-May 90	Apr.-May 91	Apr.-May 92
Exports	2555	2949	2777	2667
Imports	3148	3592	2896	3512

(c) The reasons for the negative growth of exports in dollar terms include collapse of the erstwhile Soviet Union, sluggish "world trade which increased by only 1.8 per cent in 1991, the severe import compression in the

preceding year resulting in decline in industrial production which in turn affected exports, domestic inflation which remained unabated in 1991-92 and created an anti-export bias for products etc

(d) Several changes in trade policy were introduced since July 91 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 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. The exports during April-June 1992 amounted to US \$ 4013 million as compared to US \$ 3999 million during April-June 1991 thereby showing an increase of 0.4%. The exports to the General Currency Area Countries increased by 8.4 per cent in dollar terms during this period.

Exploitation of coffee growers

4201. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased! to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coffee Planters are exploited by concerned Government agencies in connivance with Coffee Board;

(b) whether it is a fact that coffee planters in large numbers are under debts due to adverse policies of his Ministry;

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to provide relief to the coffee planters from the debts incurred due to such wrong policies?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Export of minerals from Bihar

4202. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the State of Bihar has the potential of exports, particularly, in the field of minerals;

(b) if so, what are the details of minerals exported from the State of Bihar during the last five years;

(c) whether the minerals are being exported by Government agencies or private exporters;

(d) what incentives are being given by Government to private exporters; and

(e) what steps Government have taken to step up exports of mineral from the State of Bihar?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Iron Ore, Mica and Coal are the main minerals exported from Bihar during the last five years.

(c) Exports of minerals are being effected both by Government agencies and private exporters.

(d) and (e) Apart from the benefit under Section 80 HHC of the Income Tax Act extended to exports of processed minerals in 1991-92, exporters of minerals and ores are eligible for benefit of partial convertibility under the liberalised Exchange Rate Management Scheme.

Export of Indian Leather Goods

4203. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

SHRI P. UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian leather goods export is earning very good foreign exchange in Europe and U.S.;