

(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. UPIENDRA:

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.;

(b) if so, what is the total export earnings for the year 1991-92;

(c) whether it is fact that there are plans to have foreign tie-ups in the leather industry; and

(d) if so, which are the countries interested for foreign tie-ups and on what conditions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total value of exports and hence foreign exchange earned of leather and leather products during 1991-92 was as follows:

	(Export) Rs. Crores;
Europe	1815.67
U.S.A.	433.10
Other countries	965.94
Total	3214.71

(Source: CLE, Madras)

(c) and (d) The Council for Leather Exports, Madras has a programme for promoting joint ventures in India with assistance from UNDP for leather products with suitable companies in USA, Germany, Australia and South Korea, which is likely to be implemented during the current year. Suitable companies in these countries which are interested in setting up production base in India, would be identified and introduced to selected firms in India for establishing one-to-one contact

Competition faced by Indian construction companies abroad

4204. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Construction Companies are being

hampered to compete in global construction business and the construction export due to redtapism at Government level;

(b) whether the Indian Construction Companies have made any representation thereon to Government; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to eliminate the redtapism in the approval of construction project abroad and liberalise procedures to make Indian Construction exports competitive?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED):

(a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) In order to provide single window clearance to project exporters from India, a working Group comprising representatives from Reserve Bank of India, Export Credit and Guarantee Corporation, EXIM Bank, sponsoring Banks, Ministry of Commerce, Department of Economic Affairs under the auspices of EXIM Bank of India considers for approval, project export bids involving deferred payment and or issue of guarantees where value of export bid exceeds Rs. 20 crores. The above mechanism has been evolved specially with a view to avoid delay in clearing the proposals.

Indian Supply Service

4205. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total strength of the Indian Supply Service as on 31st July, 1992;

(b) what is the total amount of expenditure incurred annually on their emoluments; and

(c) which is the highest office which the members of this service normally reach during their career?