

of brass-goods exported and the foreign exchange earned thereon during the last three years is as under :—

1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01	
Qty in kgs.	Value in Rs. crores	Qty in kgs.	Value in Rs. crores	Qty in kgs.	Value in Rs. crores
6490325	122.87	6398615	122.50	6535452	120.74

(c) It is the endeavour of the Government to encourage exports of engineering goods including brass-goods. Measures to increase the export of engineering goods including brass-goods consists of various provisions under the Export-Import Policy including, *inter alia*, duty Exemption Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Duty Drawback Scheme, Exemption under Section 80 HHC of Income Tax Act, Assistance from Market Development Fund etc. Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) provides support through various activities with a view to promoting exports of engineering goods including brass-goods to various markets.

Further, with a view to boosting the export of Art Metal ware including brass art ware various steps have been taken by the Government which, *inter alia*, include participation in *International* fairs and exhibitions, sponsoring sales-cum-study teams abroad to explore overseas market opportunities, promotion through preparation of product catalogues of international standards, setting up of India Exposition Mart for round the clock international marketing.

Promotion of leather export

2308. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a considerable fall in the export of leather from India and many foreign orders were cancelled;

(b) if so, the details of leather export made during the last three quarters as compared to corresponding periods of the last two years;

(c) the reasons for the shortfall and the cancellation of foreign orders; and

(d) the steps taken to boost leather export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI) : (a) to (c) India's exports of leather and leather products during April-August, 2001 was of US \$ 845.74 million against US \$ 828.21 million during the corresponding period of last year, thus recording a positive growth of 4.64%. Council for Leather Exports has brought to the notice of the Government that while companies like timber Land have suspended their further procurement of shoes and leather products from India, some other companies have expressed their concern over the use of cow leather in the manufacture of shoes and other accessories.

(d) Government have taken a number of steps including establishing of contacts with such multi-national organisations and addressing of issues raised by these organisations and undertaking product specific export promotion programmes in the overseas markets, inviting delegations from abroad and stepping up of marketing promotion efforts in the US and Japanese markets as well as consolidation in European market.

WTO influence on government policy

†2309. SHRIMATI SAVIT SHARDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that on account of World Trade Organisation Government's policies are adversely affecting the common people specially the farmers, workers, artisans and labourers;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to take any concrete steps to provide benefits to the common people; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Probe into price movements of pharmaceutical majors

2310. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.