

Ban on handicraft products imported from China

†1183. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to put a ban on handicraft products imported from China;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the steps taken to promote Indian handicraft export during last five years by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the exports of handicrafts including hand-knotted carpets consist of providing assistance for participation in Fairs/Exhibitions abroad; organization of buyer-seller's meet; Brand Image Promotion of Indian Handicrafts abroad; awareness programmes about technology, packaging and various relevant policies in India; organizing Sourcing shows and Thematic promotion of Indian Handicrafts. Handicraft products exports is also entitled for benefits under Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana.

Effect of economic slowdown on country's export

1184. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether country's exports shrink by 2 per cent during the current fiscal, the first in seven years, due to economic slowdown;
- (b) whether in 2008-09, exports had grown up by an average of 30 per cent till September, 2008 and since then it has been reducing;
- (c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to improve the position;
- (d) whether iron ore exports also remained weak and in April it dip by 33 per cent; and
- (e) what is latest position and what are steps being considered to improve exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (e) Quick Estimates of monthly trade statistics compiled by DGCI&S indicate declining trend in India's Merchandise exports during the last few months since Oct. 08. Details of Quick Estimates of monthly merchandise exports from April, 2008 till May, 2009 (along with figures of corresponding month of previous year) and the Quick Estimates of Iron-Ore exports are given in the Statement-I (See below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.