

- (a) whether it is a fact that white asbestos is being imported in the country in a big way as the mining of white asbestos has been banned;
- (b) if so, the quality of white asbestos imported during last three years;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that WHO and AIIMS have declared that white asbestos is carcinogenic; and
- (d) if so, reasons for the large scale imports leading to jeopardizing health of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of leather goods

2744. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise quantum of export of leather goods during each of the last three years; and
- (b) the steps proposed to be taken to boost leather exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) State wise export data for the leather goods is not maintained by DGCI&S. However, as per records maintained by Council for Leather Exports, the details of leather goods exported from the major States for 2005-06, 2006-07 & 2007-08 are as under:-

State	2005-06 FOB Value (Rs. In Crore)	2006-07 FOB Value (Rs. In Crore)	2007-08 FOB Value (Rs. In Crore)
Tamil Nadu	4440.95	5277.24	5385.30
Uttar Pradesh	3110.92	4108.35	4374.33
West Bengal	1746.69	2085.6	2216.55
Delhi	899.43	936.81	1005.83
Maharashtra	791.85	847.26	819.04
Others	992.12	1083.9	1112.12

(b) Steps taken by Government to boost export of leather and leather goods, inter-alia, include reduction in interest rates on rupee export credit @ BPLR minus 4.5 percentage point upto 30th September, 2009; provision of Drawback facility for boots/half boots/shoes and sandals made of leather cum synthetic/textile materials w.e.f. Sept., 1, 2008; restoration of DEPB rates for certain items as per rates which were in existence prior to 5.11.2008 and extension of facilities to leather sector under Market Linked Focus products Scheme (MLFPS) etc.