

Foreign currency earned from Export of handicrafts

†*23.SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that export of handicrafts has increased during the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount of foreign currency earned by export of handicrafts during this period; and
- (d) the names of countries to which handicrafts were exported?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The exports of handicrafts including carpet and other floor coverings, as reported by Export Promotion Council for Handicraft and Carpet Export Promotion Council, during April - January (2009-10) is to tune of Rs. 7985.31 crores as compared to the exports of Rs. 7714.88 crores during the corresponding period of 2008-09; thus showing an increase of 3.51%.

(c) The amount of foreign exchange earned from exports of handicrafts including Carpets and other floor coverings during April-January, (2009-10) is US\$ 1664.60 million which is equivalent to Rs. 7985.31 crores.

(d) Indian Handicrafts are being exported all over the world. However, the major importers of Indian Handicrafts are : Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, USA, UK, etc.

Links of terror connected with neighbouring countries

†*24.SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government is aware that links of terror are connected with neighbouring countries and their Governments give patronage to them;
- (b) whether illegal arms and fake currencies are being trafficked from the Middle East, Bangladesh and now even from Nepal, and the centres of anti-India activities have been established in these countries;
- (c) the efforts made by those Governments so far to hand over the declared terrorist conspirators living in these countries to India; and
- (d) the reasons for disappointing results of these efforts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) Government are aware of terrorist/insurgent groups having their presence in some neighbouring countries. Government are also aware that elements in some Governments patronize such terrorist/insurgent groups.

(b) Government are aware of the flow of Fake Indian Currency Notes from some countries in the Middle-East, Bangladesh and Nepal. Some incidents of trafficking of illegal arms from Bangladesh and from Nepal into India have been noticed.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.