

(a) whether there was an increase in the export of iron ore and the iron ore so exported, was imposed as steel, in the form of value-added product;

(b) the steps taken to motivate indigenous producers to undertake value addition of iron ore into finished steel;

(c) whether there is any proposal to ban export of natural resources like iron ore particularly when there is a growing domestic demand; and

(d) the quantum of foreign exchange lost by exporting of minerals as raw material, as the country is importing the finished products of the same minerals at a higher rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Although there was an increase in the export of iron ore during the year 2009-10 as compared with 2008-09, there is no data available to know whether the iron ore so exported was imported as steel in the form of value-added product. The data on import of total finished steel (alloy + non-alloy) for 2007-08 to 2009-10 is given below :

Quantity in million tonnes			
Item	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Import of total finished steel	6.58	5.84	7.29

(b) The decision to invest in putting up steel manufacturing capacities is left to the producers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The export of minerals is determined by domestic demand, production, capacity, employment in remote areas dependent on mining and overall economic considerations. The import of finished products likewise, is dependent on domestic demand and domestic capacity to produce grade wise finished products. Therefore, it is not possible to draw a comparison between foreign exchange balance in export and import.

Widening of Trade Deficit

1805. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN :

SHRI D. RAJA :

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that India's trade deficit is likely to widen in the 2010-11 fiscal year; and
- (b) if so, what are the factors likely to contribute for a wider trade deficit during the year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Trade deficit is a function of exports, import requirements and value thereof. It is difficult to predict the trend due to volatility of the global markets.

Ban on export of iron ore

1806. SHRI R.C. SINGH :

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY :

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

- (a) whether it is fact that 50 per cent of our iron ore export are low grade iron ore;
- (b) whether Government is putting any ban on export of Iron ore;
- (c) whether there is any proposal before Government to allow the export of semi finished and finished goods in place of iron ore;
- (d) if so, the details of (b) and (c) above;
- (e) whether any assessment has made about the impact on the ban imposed by China on the import of low grade iron ore; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. More than 50% of India's exports is low grade iron ore with below 62% Fe content.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Government is not aware of full details of any such ban on import of low grade iron ore by China and accordingly no such assessment on its impact has been made.

Anti-dumping duty on Chinese goods

1807. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: