

Export of finished leather through monopoly houses

206. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the monopoly houses has been appointed as sole exporter for fully finished leather;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the same;

(c) what are the details of allocation of fully finished/semi-finished hides and skins;

(d) what is the value of exports made during the last three years;

(e) what is the target fixed for the current year 1980-81;

(f) whether Government have received representations from small and medium tanners that the new policy for export of hides and skins would ruin this important cottage industry and that thousands of workers will be deprived of their means of living; and

(g) what steps Government propose to take to protect the small and me-

dium tanners and the workers employed under them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) Export of fully finished leather is outside the purview of Export Trade Control.

Export of all categories of semi-processed hides and skins, including E.I. tanned and wet blue hides and skins and crust leather, are canalised through the State Trading Corporation. Allocation of quota in this respect is made to the quota holders registered with the licensing authorities. For the year 1980-81, quotas have been fixed for individual exporters for export of these material during the licensing year 1980-81 by reduction of 1979-80 individual quotas in various categories by stipulated percentages. Quota cuts have, however, not been applied to small tanners, whose quota allotment for 1978-79 did not exceed certain stipulated figures.

Exports of semi-finished and finished leather during the last three years have been as under:—

(Value: Rupees Million)

Year	E.I. Tanned and Wet Blue Cr. Hides & Skins.	Finished leather
1977-78	1207.16	987.91
1978-79	1072.12	1812.59
1979-80	885.44	2660.09

(Source : LEPC, Madras.)

(f) and (g) Representations have been received from certain sections of trade and industry against the decision of the Government to implement

the revised Indian Standard Guidelines for Identification of Finished Leather for Export. The matter is under examination.