

Algeria between 1990-91 and 1993-94 are as below:

Year	Quantity (tons)	Value (Rs. crores)
1990-91	500	0.71
1991-92	Nil	Nil
1992-93	3200	11.03
1993-94	3500	20.65

(Source: Tobacco Board)

From 1995-96 to 1999-2000 exports of other agricultural products to Algeria has ranged between Rs. 3.29 crores and Rs. 19.75 crores.

(Source : DGCI & S)

(b) M/s SNTA of Algeria has stopped imports of tobacco from India until the settlement of their claim for recompense of insect infected quantity of 230 tons by the Indian exporter. Imports of other agricultural commodities, however, continue.

(c) The Tobacco Board has directed the exporter to settle the matter with the Algerian importer and report to the Board on action taken. Export promotion efforts made in Arab and African countries include:

- visit of tobacco trade delegation to Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey in May, 1998
- visit of tobacco trade delegation to Libya, Egypt, Jordan and Algeria in February, 2000.
- Requesting the Government tobacco monopolies of Libya, Egypt, Algeria Iran, Tunisia, Morocco, Turkey, Yemen to consider importing tobacco from India.
- Modalities for increased import of Indian tobacco have been emphasised in the Joint Commission meetings held with Morocco and Tunisia.

Need to make Indian Industries Competitive

2960. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are of the view that there is a need to make the Indian Industries competitive in the World stage following liberalisation, economic reforms and structural adjustments;

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RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, whether incapability, inefficiency, low output and low profitability have to be removed from the public sector units; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) One of the main aims and objectives of the New Industrial Policy, 1991 (NIP) and reforms in various sectors, is to make the Indian Industry internationally competitive;

(b) and (c) To remain viable, PSU also need to become internationally competitive. With this end in view, reforms have been introduced in the public sector units for removal of incapability, inefficiency, low output and low profitability.

Government have identified Navratna Enterprises, which have the potential to become major players in the world market and have granted them managerial, financial and operational autonomy to enable them to take commercial decisions and become competitive in the domestic and international markets. Similarly, a few other profit-making enterprises have been categorised as 'Miniratnas' to enable them to exercise autonomy subject to fulfilling certain stipulated conditions. In addition to this, on a general basis, the public sector units have been granted higher delegation of financial powers.

The main elements of Government's policy towards the public sector are restructure and revive potentially viable PSUs, close down PSUs which cannot be revived, bring down Government equity in all non-strategic PSUs to 26% or lower if necessary, and fully protect the interests of workers.

Agreement Signed with WTO

2961. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some agreements signed with WTO has affected marketing of domestic agricultural products of the country; and

(b) If so, the details thereof with names of products affected and the steps to be taken to ensure that marketing of domestic agricultural products of the country are not affected at all?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) India is a signatory to WTO Agreement on Agriculture and General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs. The Agreement on Agriculture