

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS****Export of leather**

\*7. ">1. SHRI DEORAO PATIL:

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the steps that are being taken by Government to promote export of Indian leather?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE); A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

The following are the steps that have been taken or are being taken by the Government to promote the export of Indian leathers:

(1) Leather and leather goods industry is included in the priority category of industries and liberal import of raw materials, chemicals, etc. which are not available indigenously, is allowed on actual consumption basis.

(2) Export of raw hides and skins is banned with a duty on making leather raw material available to the finished leather and leather goods manufacturers at competitive rates in the country.

(3) Duty free import of raw hides and skins is allowed for its re-export as processed leathers with added value.

(4) Import of vegetable tanning material is allowed under Open General licenses to meet the requirements of the leather industry.

(5) The licensing procedures have been simplified under which manufacturers of serai-finished leathers produce finished leathers, to the full extent of their semi-finished capacity, without having to obtain prior licences for the purpose.

(6) A list of machinery which are not available indigenously has been drawn up to expedite clearance for imports by registered exporters against their replenishment licences without having to go to the Directorate General of Technical Development every time.

(7) A list of chemicals and dyes which are allowed to be imported in the shopping list against replenishment licences has been expanded.

(8) Efforts are being made to train workers in the Extension Centres run by the Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries) to manufacture leather and leather goods.

(9) Some of the State Governments have started Leather Industries Development Corporations for development of the industry.

**Misuse of import licences for polyester**

\*7S2. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:  
SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of firms have misused the import licences for import of polyester fibre in Bombay and Delhi during the period 1959-74: and

(b) whether any inquiry has been made into the matter and if so, what is the outcome thereof and the action taken by Government against the defaulting importers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA):

(a) There are allegations of misuse of import licences for Polyester Fibre in respect of 3 firms in Bombay.

(b) In one case, the firm has been debarred under the Imports (Control) Order from receiving import licences for a period of 5 years. The other cases are still under investigation.

**Complaints against the Chairman of United Commercial Bank, Calcutta**

\*7SS. SHRI 8. KUMARAN: DR. Z. A. AHMAD: SHRI S. G. SARDESAI: SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received some complaints about the working of the United