

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Due to various policy initiatives undertaken by the Government, the exports have shown a positive growth during 1999-2000 and in the first two months of 2000-2001. The major areas where exports have shown significant growth during 1999-2000 (the latest period for which such data are available) are pulses (76.3%), tobacco (26.5%), nuts and seeds (39.1%), processed foods (20.4%), marine products (13.6%), gems & jewellery (28.8%), chemicals and related items (13.7%), engineering goods (14.9%), textiles (11.2%), carpets (11.6%), etc. The areas which have shown negative growth include tea (-23.3%), coffee (-23.4%), cereals (-51.9%), oil meals (-19.8%), leather and manufactures (-7.4%), sports goods (-11.9%), project goods (-78.0%) and petroleum products (-66.5%).

Import of used Cars

802. SHRIVEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the proposal to permit import of used cars in India;

(b) whether any study has been conducted to assess its bad impact on Indian automobile industry with findings thereof;

(c) whether similar steps have been taken in other developing countries also;

(d) if so, what impact it had in those countries with details thereof;

(e) the steps taken to safeguard the domestic automobile industry from cheap foreign made used cars; and

(f) the steps Government propose to take?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (f) Cars are classified under Exim Code No. 87.0 of ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, 1997-2002, and import of these items is presently restricted. In view of India's International commitments, all quantitative restrictions on imports maintained by India for balance of payment reasons are required to be removed by 1.4.2001.

Research and Information System for the Non Aligned and Other Developing Countries (RIS), an autonomous body under the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has conducted a study on behalf of Association of Indian Automobile Manufacturers on the WTO Regime and

its implications for the Indian Automobile Industry. This study has stated that the implementation of the commitments undertaken by India as a member of the WTO will have far reaching implications for the automobile industry in India. As regards the impact on the domestic automobile industry in other developing countries, this study has stated that the countries which have allowed the import of second hand (used) vehicles have not been successful in establishing a competitive automobile industry.

However, even after removal of quantitative restrictions the imports will still be subject to applicable tariffs, technical standards and environment and safety norms. These measures singly or in combination can be appropriately used to create a level playing field for the domestic automobile industry. A decision on this issue will be taken in due course after examining all relevant aspects.

Production of Tobacco in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

803. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tobacco growers of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka cultivated tobacco more than the permissible limits during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a production limit of 25 million kg. for Karnataka for the current year has been fixed; and

(d) if so, how Government propose to ensure that this limit of production is not exceeded by the growers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Details as below:

Year	State	Crop authorised (M.Kgs.)	Crop produced (M.Kgs.)	Excess production (M.Kgs.)
1	2	3	4	5
1997-98	A.P.	110.39	131.61	21.22
	Karnataka	31.00	39.00	8.00
	Total	141.39	170.61	29.22
1998-99	A.P.	99.83	149.60	49.77