

Maharashtra, followed by finished leather with a share of 22.78% and leather goods 8.09%. Maharashtra accounts for a share of 4.25% in India's total leather and leather products export trade.

(b) and (c) The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) is implementing a sub-scheme 'Mega Leather Cluster' under 'Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDPP)' for establishment of leather clusters during 12th Plan period (2012-17) to provide the infrastructure support to Indian Leather Industry all over India including the State of Maharashtra. However, DIPP has not received any proposal from the leather entrepreneurs or State Government of Maharashtra till now. As and when the proposal from Maharashtra is received in DIPP, the same will be considered.

New auction system for cardamom

2812. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new auction system has been introduced by Spices Board for auctioning cardamom;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all stake holders have been made aware of the new auction system before its introduction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The auction system was introduced in 1977 by Cardamom Board and the auctions have been conducted for cardamom right from the year it was introduced as per the Cardamom (Licensing and Marketing) Rules 1977. When Spices Board was constituted in 1986 under Spices Board Act, the Cardamom (Licensing and Marketing) Rules 1977 were replaced with new set of rules called the Cardamom (Licensing and Marketing) Rules 1987. Further, e-Auction system was introduced in 2007 for cardamom (small) in Bodinayakanur in Tamil Nadu and Puttady in Kerala replacing the manual outcry system and the auction is conducted based on this system.

Output of leather goods industry

2813. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the total industrial output of the leather and leather goods Industry for the last one year;
- (b) the estimated amount of money that was invested in the sector;
- (c) whether the sector is making a profit or incurring losses; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) As per the report of Working Group on Leather and Leather Products for Twelfth Plan period, the Domestic production of leather products for the Year 2011-12 was estimated to worth Rs. 93,625/- crore.

(b) During the previous year 2011-12, Rs. 171.02 crore was released to the Leather Industry through the central scheme "Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDPA)".

(c) and (d) The Leather Sector comprises both Private organized companies at one end of the spectrum while at the other end are the unorganized individual artisans and craftsmen. Since, the industry is deregulated and completely based on private entrepreneurs, there is no system of data of profit and loss figures being maintained by the Government.

World heritage site status for Shantiniketan and Visva-Bharti

2814. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI PANKAJ BORA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) team visited Visva-Bharati University, Shantiniketan in order to declare it a World Heritage Site; and
- (b) if so, the final outcome of the visit by the UNESCO?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH): (a) Yes, Sir. The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) expert visited Shantiniketan in October, 2010 to evaluate the site for inscription on World Heritage List.

(b) Shantiniketan continues to remain on the Tentative List of India with UNESCO.