

(Figures in million USD)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (P)
6494.84	5853.96	5665.91

P: Provisional.

Source: Council for Leather Exports (CLE).

(b) The number of people employed directly in the leather industry is estimated at 3.09 million. (Source: CLE)

Impact of indiscriminate drilling by oil companies on soil fertility

*191. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that hectic and indiscriminate drilling operations of the PSU and private oil and gas companies is drastically affecting fertility of soil in Konaseema area of Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether several requests from farmer unions to stop this indiscriminate drilling have been ignored and companies were allowed drilling; and

(c) whether Government is aware that the oil companies are not filling the oil wells with sterile water after extracting oil and gas resulting in the salt water filling these vacuum rapids causing damage to soil, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) For undertaking exploration and production activities all the operators, including Public Sector Undertaking(PSUs)/Private/Joint Venture, have to comply with the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act-1980, Environment (Protection) Act-1986 and such other guidelines/rules stipulated by Ministry of Environment and Forest. All operators working in Konaseema area take utmost care in drilling operations and do not damage the fertility of soil. There is no request made by farmers to stop drilling but only to compensate any damages to crops in the land acquired for carrying out E&P activities. Such requests made by various farmers during public hearings and subsequent meetings are addressed through compensations and various Corporate Social Responsibility projects.

(c) The entire well including the soil layers are isolated by lowering casing pipes and cementing it to prevent contamination of any fluid inside the well bore with soil layers. At the end of producing life of oil/gas field, the wells drilled in the field are abandoned by placement of 2 or 3 cement plugs in accordance with the guidelines of Oil Industry Safety Directorate. Under Production Sharing Contract (PSC), there is provision for Site Restoration Fund (SRF) wherein operators are required to deposit

fund to take care of site restoration activities post seizure of production from the field. Thus, the obligation of operator under PSC is completed only after full site restoration starting with abandonment of wells.

Duty free barter trade along LoC

*192. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the items permitted for duty free barter trade along Line of Control (LoC) in J&K between India and Pakistan;

(b) how many Indian firms are associated with such trade;

(c) whether container scanners are proposed to be installed at Trade Facilitation Centres (TFCs) along Line of Control in J&K to regulate smuggling of contraband goods; and

(d) how long the National Investigation Agency will take to acquire and install such scanners in the TFCs and which are the firms identified for supplying such scanners and the cost of such equipments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) 21 items each are allowed for import and export in the Cross LoC Trade. The list of items are as follows:-

Sl. No.	Items to be traded from Salamabad to Chakoti and Chakan-da-Bagh to Rawalakote (Export)	Items to be traded from Chakoti to Salamabad and Rawalakote to Chakan-da-Bagh (Import)
1	2	3
1.	Carpets	Rice
2.	Rugs	Jahnamaz and Tusbies
3.	Wall Hangings	Precious Stones
4.	Shawls and stoles	Gabbas
5.	Namdas	Namdas
6.	Gabbas	Peshawari leather Chappals
7.	Embroidered items including crewel	Medicinal herbs
8.	Furniture including walnut furniture	Maize and maize products
9.	Wooden handicrafts	Fresh fruits and vegetables