

[English]

**Export of Sandal Wood**

7313. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:—

(a) whether there is an increase in the smuggling of sandal wood from the country due to ban on exports of sandalwood and its products under the EXIM policy (1992-97);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the union Government have received a number of representations from the various State Governments and exporters to review the present EXIM policy (1992-97) so far as export of sandalwood is concerned;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

(c) to (e). The Union Government have received representations from the Government of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and certain exporters requesting for lifting the ban on export of Sandalwood, as imposed in the existing EXIM policy, 1992-97. The representation received from different quarters have been considered. The export of Sandalwood logs has been banned since 1980 to discourage illicit felling of Sandalwood trees with its extremely adverse environmental consequences. Permitting export of dust, chips etc. as requested in the representations would

only encourage the conversion of logs into these forms and will lead to subversion of the main purpose of the ban. Besides, Sandalwood is required in large quantities by our artisans to manufacture handicraft articles. This would promote export of value-added items which is permitted without restrictions. For these reasons, it was not considered advisable to lift the ban on Sandalwood export.

**Trade Fairs and Merger of FTDM and TFAI**

7314. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trade fairs and the countries in which the Indian Trade Promotion Organisation Organised Indian participation during 1992-93;

(b) whether Indian participation has improved their trade position; and

(c) if so, the actual business transacted during the above year as a result of merger of the former Trade Development Authority with the Trade Fair Authority of India as compared to business transacted during the previous year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) India Trade Promotion Organisation participated in 43 exhibitions/fairs during 1992-93 in 28 countries.

(b) and (c). The business generated during 1991-92, 1992-93, as a result of India Trade Promotion Organisation's participation in fairs/exhibitions abroad as reported by participants is given below:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

	1991-92.	1992-93.
Business booked	43546.22	43744.09
Business under negotiation	94948.96	96146.16
Total Business Generated	138495.18	139890.25