

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:279  
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2000  
TRADE DEFICIT .  
HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP;TUFANI SAROJ

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there has been an increase in the trade deficit during the last one year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to minimize the trade deficit?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. As per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics provisional data, the trade deficit has decreased to US \$ 7038.68 million during April-December, 1999-2000 from US \$ 7328.42 million over the same period last year.

(c) The trade deficit is the excess of imports over the exports and a large portion of our imports are necessary to sustain economic growth. The Government is taking conscious and continuous efforts to boost exports through changes in Exim Policy and procedures with focus on improving the export competitiveness and providing a freer trading environment.