

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2684  
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2003  
EXCISE DUTY ON LEATHER PRODUCTS  
SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

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

- (a) whether the Government have recently announced new rates reducing excise duty on leather and leather products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the impact on the leather industry as a result thereof;
- (d) whether the Leather Export Council has requested the Government to consider its recommendations in order to check the decline in the export of leather products;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) & (c) Does not arise.

(d) & (e) Council for Leather Exports has requested, from time to time, concessions & exemptions from duties on essential inputs and capital goods such as removal of central excise duty on footwear components & countervailing duty on vegetable tanning extracts, enhance the percentage of abatement of central excise on minimum retail price of footwear, etc. These proposals are given due consideration while formulating the Union Budget.

(f) Government of India in close association with Council for Leather Exports is monitoring exports of leather sector and is providing financial support to:-

- (i) exporters for participation in international fairs & buyer-seller meets;
- (ii) Potential Indian companies to strengthen their market network by establishing warehousing and showroom facilities in the focus countries like the USA and select European countries;
- (iii) Indian exporters to establish Design Studios in their Production Units to enhance their design development capabilities to boost export in the global markets; and
- (iv) organizing marketing programme in the Focus Market countries.