

New HMT Watches

3509. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Machine Tools has brought out a new model of wrist watch called "Kayakave Kailasa" in memory of Jagajyothi Basaveshwara;

(b) if so, when it was released;

(c) the number of watches produced/sold so far; and

(d) the action taken by the company to boost the sale of these watches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 'Kayakave Kailasa' a new model of wrist watch was released by HMT on 12th December, 1997.

(c) The number of watches produced/sold is 5200/3500 respectively.

(d) These watches were produced against the specific request of Shri Basava Samithi, Bangalore. The watches were sold to the Samithi and various other related organisations.

Exim Policy

3510. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Export & Import Policy announced by the Government, places agricultural commodities at par with industrial items;

(b) if so, whether there is still any gap in the treatment of agricultural commodities vis-a-vis industrial items for the purpose of Import-Export Policy;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have taken any steps to ensure that the benefits of Export of agricultural commodities reach the agricultural producers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) The Current Export and Import Policy lays down general criteria for import and export of agricultural, industrial or other items. However, most of the agricultural products are in the Negative List of Imports at present. There are also restriction on export of certain items. In respect of certain export-promotion schemes, special treatment has been extended to the agriculture sector to boost agricultural exports as under :

(a) Under Zero Duty Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme, the threshold limit for zero duty capital goods imports has been reduced from Rs. 5 crores to Rs. 1 crore for agricultural and allied sectors.

(b) Double weightage has been given for export of fruits and vegetables, floriculture and horticulture produce/products for calculating eligibility of Export House/Trading House/Super Star Trading House. 1% additional Special Import Licence as been provided for export of fruits, vegetables floriculture and horticulture products provided the export of these products constitute 10% or more of the total exports made.

(c) EOU/EPZ units in agriculture and allied sectors have been permitted to sell 50% of their production in value terms in the DTA subject to positive net foreign exchange earnings.

(d) to (f) Export of agricultural commodities take place through merchant exporters or by manufacturers. Export of agricultural products helps in employment generation and enhancing farm incomes which either directly or indirectly helps the agricultural producers.

[Translation]

Supply of Dumper/Dozer to Bihar by BCCL

3511. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether dumper, dozer etc. have been sent to Patna from Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL), a subsidiary of Coal India Ltd. for sanitation purposes on the demand by the Government of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details of other items sent to Patna by BCCL;

(c) whether Government of Bihar has been asked to make payment for such items;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is a loss of coal production of BCCL due to sending of these items to Patna; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Following equipments of BCCL have been sent to Patna on the request of Government of Bihar :

Sl.No.	Name of Equipment	Numbers
1.	Payloader	6*
2.	Dumpers	15
3.	Shovel (Poclaim)	2

*One belonging to contractor operating in BCCL.

(c) and (d) It has been reported by BCCL that bills are being prepared for claiming payment from Patna Municipal Corporation for use of these equipments. The details of the amount will be known after finalisation of the bills.

(e) and (f) BCCL has reported that due to transfer of these equipments to Government of Bihar the company has suffered a loss both in production and despatches as under :

Details	Quantum
Production Loss	1000 tonnes per day
Loss in despatches	10000 tonnes per day

Quantitative Restriction

3512. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received suggestion from Indian Commerce and Industrial Board to take up the matter of quantitative restrictions again in W.T.O.;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the time by which the Government propose to take up the matter with W.T.O.;

(d) the number of products exempted from import restrictions;

(e) whether 'Bindi', 'Kumkum' and vermilion are included in it; and

(f) the percentage of export rate during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) As on 1.4.1998 a total of 6781 items can be imported freely.

(e) Yes, Sir. Sindur, Bindi and Kumkum are in the Free List.

(f) Export growth rate in Rupee terms for the last 5 years is as follows :

1993-94	29.9%
1994-95	18.5%
1995-96	28.6%
1996-97	11.7%
1997-98	6.3%

[English]

Foreign Exchange Limit

3513. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of foreign exchange allowed to a person going abroad;

(b) the maximum limit prescribed for higher officers and political leaders etc. in this regard;

(c) whether with a view to save foreign exchange, Government propose to reduce this limit; and

(d) if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) As per the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) No Sir.

Statement

The details of amount of foreign exchange allowed to residents for various types of visits abroad are as under :

Purpose	Quantum of foreign exchange towards maintenance expenses		Other expenses
	Special Scale (for chief/senior executives like Chairman, Managing/ Executive Director etc.	General Scale (for others)	
1	2	3	4
(i) Business visits sponsored by firms/ COS./ organisations in India self employed professionals, delegations sponsored by Trade Bodies, officials of Public and Private Sector banks,	US\$ 500 per day for a period not exceeding 45 days	US\$ 350 per day for a period not exceeding 45 days	