

The imported timber has significantly benefited a large number of saw mills particularly in urban centres in the vicinity of sea ports. Since the saw milling industry is totally unorganised and widely dispersed, it is difficult to get information about the sources of raw material, capacity utilisation and actual out-turn of sawn timber.

TABLE 5.3
Quantity and Value of Timber Imported

Year	Quantity (cu.m.)	Value (Million Rs.)
1984-85	19,122	38
1985-86	219,506	375
1986-87	844,297	1,364
1987-88	1,400,000*	2,175
1988-89	3,000,000*	3,538

* The official figures for 1987-88 and 1988-89 are not yet available and the figures supplied are the Consultant's best estimate based on information from leading timber importers. The breakdown of this estimate for 1988-89 is:

Logs	1.8 million cu.m
Sawn lumber	0.9 million cu.m.
Plywood, veneers and others	0.3 million cu.m.

5.5 Export of Forest Products

The Government of India has not encouraged export of forest products in raw form. As can be seen from the Table 5.4, export of forest products has been declining. Mostly, only finished articles and veneers of prized woods, like Sandalwood, Red Sanders, Dalbergia Latifolia, Teakwood, etc., are being exported. However, the government has recently totally banned the export of timber in log or sawn form. Details of exports are given in the Table 5.4 for the years 1982-83 to 1986-87. Statistics for subsequent years are not yet available.

TABLE 5.4
Value of Export of Selected Groups of Forest Products

Value : '000 Rs. (\$C 1 = Rs. 14.50)						
Sl. No.	Description of Produce	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
1.	Cork natural raw and waste (including natural cork in blocks or sheets)	12	22	44	—	521
2.	Fuel wood (excluding wood waste) and wood charcoal	—	711	312	112	84
3.	Pulpwood (including Chips and wood waste)	—	—	—	40	—
4.	Other wood in the rough or roughly squared	19,582	11,388	11,690	6,827	2,598
5.	Wood simply worked and Railway sleepers of wooden	420	2,509	1,828	2,280	343
6.	Pulp and waste paper	1,702	1,214	113	188	79
7.	Cork manufactures	1,688	1,498	2,118	1,130	2,484
8.	Veneers plywood 'improved' or reconstituted wood and other wood worked	93,952	78,175	95,933	89,728	116,504
9.	Wood manufactures	44,673	42,460	45,930	48,445	65,635
10.	Paper and paperboard	24,832	25,015	67,401	42,148	43,436
11.	Paper and paper board cut to size or shape and articles of paper or paper board	3,003	36,798	51,431	22,856	16,961
12.	Furniture and parts thereof	59,915	59,416	56,301	44,348	28,443
	Total	276,779	259,206	333,110	258,102	277,088

Source: Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade Vol. I. March 1983, March 1984, March 1985, March 1986 and March 1987.