

Export Potential of Agricultural Products

2. SHRI HANUMANTHA RAO:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the export potential of agricultural products during the remaining period of the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the above potential is being fully exploited; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by Government to remove these difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The export projections for agricultural commodities including coffee, tea, raw cotton and marine products during the remaining period of the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) at 1991-92 prices are as follow:—

Year	Export Projection (Rs. Cr.)
1995-96	11030
1996-97	12064

The international market for basic agricultural food stuffs viz., cereals, dairy products, meat and sugar is constrained by not only tariff and non-tariff barriers but also by the massive export subsidies granted by the USA, EEC, etc. Lack of infrastructural facilities (like air cargo facilities not keeping pace, inadequate shipping/cold storage facilities), high air freight rates and lack of vapour treatment facilities are the major constraints hampering export of agricultural commodities.

The removal of non-tariff barriers and reduction of subsidies in the industrialised countries under the Uruguay Round Final Act are expected to open up new market opportunities for countries like India.

Under a schemes for Development of Infrastructure, the Government is providing financial assistance to eligible exporters for (i) purchase of specialised

transport units, (ii) establishment of pre-cooling facilities, (iii) setting up of mechanised post harvest handling facilities and sheds for grading, sorting, quality control and packaging, (iv) establishing vapour heat treatment/ fumigation/screening machines for exports and (v) establishing cold stores at airports/seaports for export purposes.

Other measures to increase exports include market development campaigns abroad and intensification of product development efforts in the country.

**Export, Trading and Star Trading House
Status for Exporters**

3. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: DR.
SHRIKANT RAMACHAN-DRA
JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many exporters have been given the status of Export House, trading House and star trading house uptill now;

(b) what are the additional benefits which the exporters have got due to this status;

(c) what are the general complaints and difficulties in the proper implementation of this scheme; and

(d) whether this scheme will be made more liberal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) As on 15.11.95 the following numbers of exporters have valid status certificates:—

Export House	2271
Trading House	333
Star Trading House	31

In addition, 7 exporters have got valid certificates of Super Star Trading House.

(b) The benefits available to such exporters are detailed in Statement, (*see below*)