

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 RAMACHANDRA 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)