

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) An export target of 16 per cent corresponding to a level of US \$ 73.4 billion has been fixed for the year 2004-05 which is higher than the target of 12 per cent fixed for the last two years. This will help exports to reach a level of US \$ 150 billion in 2009-10. The recent export performance, global economic environment and the views of the exporting community were taken into account while fixing the export target.

(c) Government has taken several steps to boost export of rice such as publicity campaigns, sending delegations abroad, participating in international trade fairs, providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging and brand promotion etc. A new foodgrains export policy is also being formulated. Besides, APEDA has undertaken steps like registration of Basmati rice as geographical indication, market study for promotion in emerging markets etc.

(d) and (e) In order to ensure growth of exports of agricultural products, the Government provides a variety of incentives in the form of financial and other assistance through APEDA/Commodity Boards/Councils. In the Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09, the Government has identified certain special focus initiatives for boosting agricultural exports which include: Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana for promoting the export of fruits, vegetables, flowers and their value added products; funds under ASIDE for development of Agri Export Zones (AEZs); duty free imports of capital goods under EPCG Scheme; exemption from bank guarantee under EPCG Scheme for units in AEZ etc.

#### **Rise in exports**

1011. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exports have crossed US dollar 40 billion during the period from April 1 to October 30, 2004;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the growth of exports during this seven month period increased nearly 27 per cent over the same period last year;

(c) to what extent the traditional exports like tea, jute, etc. have not kept pace with the overall rate of growth of 27 per cent; and

(d) the steps taken to give a boost to traditional exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Exports during April-October, 2004-05 are valued at US \$ 40291.08 million which is 23.73 per cent higher than the level of US \$ 32564.32 million during April-October, 2003-04.

(c) and (d) As per the data provided by the Tea Board under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Textiles, the exports of tea and Jute during April-October, 2004-05 are as under:

(US \$ Million)

Commodities	April-October 2003-04	April-October 2004-05	Growth%
Tea	210	200	-4.76 -
Jute Goods	116	83	29

All possible efforts are being taken by the Government to boost traditional exports. The major initiatives taken in respect of tea include India Tea Logo Promotion and Administration, Exporter Rating System, Intellectual Property Rights Protection, Factory Upgradation Scheme, Quality Upgradation Programme, Grant of financial assistance to tea exporters etc. The existing External Market Assistance (EMA) Scheme of Ministry of Textiles has been extended upto March, 2007 to provide assistance to the jute manufacturers. In addition assistance is also provided to exporters of Food Grade Jute Products.

#### **Focus of the New Foreign Trade Policy**

1012. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the thrust of the New Foreign Trade Policy (NFTP), which proposes to replace the existing Export-Import (EXIM) policy;