

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Subsidy for flower exports**

***286. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring down or subsidies air freight on export of flowers to boost exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) other steps proposed to boost export of flowers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Transport assistance is being extended to exporters of select products, including flowers, to the extent of 10% of the Free On Board (FOB) value of export subejct to a ceiling of 25% of the air freight or the specific rate fixed under the scheme, whichever is less. The total outlay of the scheme during the Tenth Five Year Plan is limited to Rs. 80 crores.

(c) The other measures taken to boost export of flowers are:

(i) A Marketing Facilitation Centre has been set up in the Netherlands to organize marketing of Indian flowers, assist in clearing of cargo, improve presentation, assist Indian exporters on quality and market conditions and distribution of Indian products in the European Union.

(ii) Cargo handling and cold storage facilities at airports in Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Thiruvananthapuram.

(iii) Agri Export Zones for flowers are being set up in Kamataka, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Uttaranchal and Maharashtra;

(iv) Wholesale-Market-cum-Flower Auction Centres are being set up at Bangalore, Mumbai and Noida for export of flowers; and

(v) Financial assistance to the registered exporters through plan schemes for Market Development, Infrastructure Development, Quality Development, Research & Development.

High Court Bench at Madura!

***288. DR. K MALAISAMY:** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the High Court Bench at Madurai is a Full Bench or not;

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(b) whether the jurisdiction issue has been sorted out or not;

(c) the overriding factors behind the boycott of the Madras High Court Lawyers; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ):

(a) A permanent Bench of the Madras High Court with five Honourable Judges has been set up at Madurai with effect from 24.7.2004 under the Presidential Order dated 6th July, 2004. The Full Bench is constituted whenever the Division Bench refers matters on important question of law.

(b) The Bench has jurisdiction over the districts of Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, Madurai, Dindugal, Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Sivaganga, Pudukkottai, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Trichy, Perambalur and Karur.

(c) The transfer of cases relating to the 14 districts from the Principal Bench to the Madurai Bench was the main reason for agitation among a section of lawyers from the Principal Bench at Chennai. However, some lawyers were in favour of establishing the Bench at Madurai.

(d) There is a provision in the Presidential Notification setting up of the High Court Bench at Madurai that the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court may, in his discretion, order that any case or class of cases arising in any of the 14 districts falling under the jurisdiction of Madurai Bench be heard at Chennai.

UNCTAD Meeting at Sao Paulo

*289. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he had led a delegation of Members of Parliament to the Eleventh Session of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at Sao Paulo in Brazil recently;

(b) if so, the stand taken by Government on farm subsidies by the United States;

(c) whether the delegation had impressed upon the need for preferential treatment for developing countries; and