

Achievements of CII missions abroad

1492. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

MISS MABEL REBELLO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has sent 20 missions abroad to create awareness about the key business issues and to grow trade and information and bridge the institutional gaps etc.;

(b) if so, the countries where these missions have gone, with success achieved by them;

(c) whether a chamber delegation had accompanied him to Mexico, US and the other countries for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the countries visited and the mutual agreements, if any, signed in the export sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is a private organisation not primarily responsible to the Government of India. Hence the Government is not aware about all its missions sent abroad.

(c) and (d) A business delegation also comprising of members of CII accompanied the Commerce & Industry Minister during his visit to USA in June 2003. The business delegation had interactions with business community in the US.

WTO ruling against India

1493. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the WTO has ruled against India in a complaint involving country of origin certificates for export of textiles/apparels to US; and

(b) if so, its likely impact on Indian textile/apparel exports to US in the coming months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. At India's request a Panel was established by the Dispute Settlement Body of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to examine India's claims in its dispute with the United States titled "United States— Rules of Origin for Textiles and Apparel Products". In its final report the panel has not ruled in India's favour.

(b) The unilateral changes in the United States Rules of Origin are applicable from 1996 and, therefore, there are no new effects due to the Panel's ruling. At that time, the changes did affect India's grey cotton fabrics exports to countries such as Sri Lanka which used them for processing and exports to US.

Fraudulent exports

1494. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR:

SHRI EKENATH K. THAKUR:

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

(a) whether it was discovered that some spice exporters imported black pepper of other country origin and re-exported the same as Malabar Gold-I Quality pepper which commands a premium quality in the international market;

(b) if so, whether the exporters have been suspended;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the French authorities detained a consignment of Red Chillies from India at Marseilles after an analysis revealed that these contained Sudan-I, a carcinogenic red dye; and

(d) what mechanism is in place at Indian ports to inspect the quality of Indian produce before shipment overseas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Spices Board has suspended the certificate of registration as exporter of spices of two concerned exporters.