

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6010
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2001
EXPORT OF VANILLA
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether despite, apprehensions, in the wake of WTO, India has many strength, and opportunities to be a major player in export of vanilla, herbal spices;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to explore the opportunities to export herbal spices?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) & (b) : India is not a major player in the world market of vanilla and herbal spices due to inadequate production in the country at present.

(c) : The following steps have been taken by the Government to increase export of herbal spices:-

- i) Spices Board under UNDP project is supporting the production of herbal spices mainly rosemary, thyme, parsley and oregano under organic farming through a non-governmental organisation, namely HOPE, in Nilgiri District of Tamil Nadu.
- ii) The Spices Board is also assisting in establishing a pilot plant for dehydration of herbal spices and extraction of oil therefrom under the UNDP project.
- iii) Under the poverty alleviation schemes of the Central Government, demonstration are given in Nilgiris to the tribal population of the interior villages to take up cultivation of herbal spices as an income generation activity.