

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:365
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2000
IIFT-HARVARD UNIVERSITY TIES
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR

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

(a) whether on the initiative of his Ministry, the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade has tied up with Harvard University for carrying out analytical and policy oriented studies to improve India's competitiveness, boost F.D.I. and to promote the export of agriculture, bio-technology and information technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of achievements made so far by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO: 365 TO ANSWERED ON 18.8.2000 REGARDING 'IIFT-HARVARD UNIVERSITY TIES'.

(a)&(b) IIFT has entered into an MOU with the Centre for International Development, Harvard University for undertaking joint research programmes on trade and investment issues. The MOU which was signed on 31st July, 2000 envisages joint research projects on areas to be decided upon mutually between the two organisations. The areas identified for research include problems impeding global competitiveness of various Indian export sectors, measures required for increasing India's share in global trade, especially in sectors like agro based industries, knowledge based industries, comparative study of FDI regimes in China, South East Asian countries and India etc.

(c) Initial discussions between the IIFT and the Harvard University representatives have identified the issues relating to agriculture and textiles industry as research priorities for the current year.