

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6315
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2005
CUSTOMS AGREEMENT WITH COUNTRIES
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has signed a customs cooperation agreement with a number of key countries like China, Singapore, Thailand, Canada and Australia;
- (b) if so, whether India had insisted on trade facilitation clause in these agreements;
- (c) whether India has also signed a customs cooperation agreement with USA;
- (d) if so, the extent to which India's view point has been accepted in the agreement; and
- (e) the extent to which these agreements are likely to be beneficial to India?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALAMANICKAM)

- (a) The Government of India has signed Customs Cooperation Agreements with Israel, Russia, UK, Hong Kong, Maldives, Uzbekistan, Iran, Egypt, USA, China and the European Union.
- (b) No, Sir. The objective of these Agreements is to exchange information on suspect goods and persons in order to effectively combat customs offences.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) India's view point has been fully accepted in the Agreement.
- (e) The Agreement will significantly help India in getting reliable and timely information for the prevention and investigation of Customs offence cases.