

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2450
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2005
SEARCHES RELATING TO EXPORT PROMOTION SCHEMES
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan;Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of search and seizures relating to misuse of export promotion schemes like DEPB, EPCG, EPZ and EOU during last three years; and

(b) the action taken by the Union Government to bring transparency in the Customs Department?

Answer

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

(a) Details of Search & Seizures relating to misuse of export promotion Schemes like DEPB, EPCG, EPZ and EOU during the last three years is given below:-

Year No. of Searches No. of Seizures Value of goods seized

(Rs. in lakhs)

2001-02	313	126 6846.88
2002-03	613	199 24056.22
2003-04	466	161 15663.42
2004-05		

(upto Feb. 2005)	404	136 19292.91
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Total	1796	622 65859.43
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(b) The measures adopted by the Government to bring transparency in the Customs Department are detailed in the annexure enclosed.

ANNEXURE

(i) CENTRAL Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has official website viz www.cbec.gov.in which contains all the relevant Acts, tariffs, rules, regulations notifications/circulars issued by Central Board of Excise & Customs from time to time.

(ii) The website provides the e-mail addresses of the concerned officers in CBEC who are responsible to answer queries of the people relating to indirect tax.

(iii) A citizen's charter has been hosted in the website containing time frames within which the department would respond and process work in important areas such as declarations/applications/intimation refunds/ release of duty drawback/examination and clearance of export/import goods etc.

(iv) EDI system has been introduced for filling of Bill of Entry and Shipping Bills. Time taken by an officer in clearance of document is

recorded.

(v) Before issuance of any Circular by CBEC, the same is placed in the website eliciting comments from the trade and interest individuals.

(vi) A Grievance Redressal Mechanism is in place. The details of which have been hosted in website.

(vii) For redressal of grievances relating to delay in decision making, administrative mechanism exists in each customs house to deal with such complaints.

(viii) The Customs Act, 1962 provides for Advance Rulings, which provides that any non-resident or joint venture company can seek information relating to classification, rate of duty and applicability of notifications. The decision of Advance Ruling Authority is binding on the Departmental Officer.

(ix) For redressal of grievances against merits of a decision taken by any officer, the Customs Act, 1962, itself provides for remedial measures in the form of appeal and revision.

(x) Provision of e-filing of service tax has been introduced.

(xi) In order to eliminate unnecessary stages a standing Committee on Regulatory reforms has been constituted. The Committee includes representative of CBEC and various Government Departments and Trade Associations.

(xii) A risk management Module has been introduced for examination of goods at the port of import.