

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:177
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2008
BENEFITS TO SPICE GROWING FARMERS
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to empower spice growing farmers to play a part in the futures market through active participation in the spices park;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the manner in which spice growing farmers are likely to be benefited thereby;
- (d) the details of spices exported from the country during 2007-08 as compared to 2006-07; and
- (e) the extent to which exports of Indian Spices is likely to be increased by such empowerment of farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH)

a) to e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.177 FOR ANSWER ON 11TH MARCH, 2008 REGARDING "BENEFITS TO SPICE GROWING FARMERS"

(a) & (b) Government intends to establish common infrastructure facilities (Spice Parks) in various parts of the country for cleaning, grading, processing, storage and packing facilities primarily to empower the spices farmers through value addition and quality improvement of spices. Six such infrastructure facilities are proposed to be established in major spices growing centres in the country during the XI Plan period. The warehousing/storage facilities proposed in such facilities would enable the farmers to stock their produce and participate in the futures market for better realization and to avoid distress sale during the peak harvest season.

(c) The common infrastructure is proposed to be included as an integrated spice zone with central processing facilities alongwith backward linkage, which would be aimed at adding value in the marketing channel for the ultimate benefit to the farmers/growers community.

(d) During the first ten months of financial year 2007-08, the export earnings of spices has been Rs. 3485.4 crore as against Rs. 2850.45 crore during the same period of the year 2006-07.

(e) The common infrastructure facilities are largely aimed at improving the overall quality standards of the spice products to avoid possible rejections of the products both in domestic and overseas markets and establish traceability. The export of spices for 2008-09 in quantity terms is expected to be 4 lac tones valuing Rs. 3950 crore.