

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2878
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2009
EXPORTS TO LATIN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES
Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu

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

- (a) whether Indian exporters are exploring newer opportunities in some Latin American and African countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) There has been an increase in the trade and business enquiries, visits of Indian delegations and individual exporters to the countries of Latin America and Africa region. The trade statistics indicate that India's exports to the Latin America region increased from US\$ 2.16 billion in 2004-05 to US\$ 6.01 billion in 2008-2009 registering a growth of about 178 %. Likewise, our exports to Africa region increased from US\$ 5.6 billion in 2004-05 to US\$ 14.57 billion in 2008-2009 registering a growth of about 160 %.

(c) With a view to enhancing our exports to Latin America and Africa region , process for expansion of the existing India-Chile Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and India-MERCOSUR (trade bloc of Brazil, Argentina , Paraguay and Uruguay) Trade Agreement have been initiated. Besides, India has commenced negotiations for a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with South Africa Customs Union (SACU) comprising of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland . In addition to this, FOCUS: LAC and FOCUS: Africa Programme of Government are in force for supporting and encouraging Indian exporters / companies to explore new markets of these regions.