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Title: Statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 65<sup>th</sup> Report of Standing Committee on Commerce on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) in respect of Department of Commerce.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): Sir, in pursuance of Directions 73 A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II dated September 01, 2004, I am making this statement on the status of the implementation of recommendations contained in the 65<sup>th</sup> Report of the Standing Committee on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) in respect of the Department of Commerce.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Elangovan, you can lay the statement on the Table of the House.

SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN: Sir, it is only a two-page statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to read it? Okay, I welcome it.

SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN: (i) The Standing Committee examined the Demands for Grants for the year 2004-2005 of the Department of Commerce in its meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2004. The report was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2004. The report contained 31 recommendations.

(ii) These recommendations of the Committee mainly relate to the timely approval of schemes of Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC), Rubber Plantation Development Scheme, Export Promotion of Spices and Tea Plantation Fund, utilisation of funds, review of schemes / specific programmes, clearing of pending cases of refund on account of duty drawback on deemed exports, formation of Cashew Board, monitoring of the functioning of Agri Export Zones, setting up of more EOUs in the North East Region, holding of inter-Ministerial Consultations and consultation with the State Governments, political parties and apex industry associations to evolve strategy in the next Ministerial Conference of the WTO in Hong Kong, China in December, 2005, etc[ak1].

\* Also Placed in Library, See No. LT 2014/05.

(iii) Out of 31 recommendations, Government has accepted 30 recommendations. In one case, that is, recommendation made *vide* para 13.3 for formation of Cashew Board, the Government has not accepted the recommendation of the Committee on the grounds that it will not be cost effective. Moreover, in the era of globalisation and liberalisation, the trend is towards greater autonomy of operations to facilitate trade growth which should be at best left to the industry and the private entrepreneurs.

(iv) Out of 30 recommendations accepted by the Government, action has already been completed in respect of 25 recommendations. In respect of 5 cases, action is at an advanced stage of completion. These are as follows:-

- a) Para No. 5.2 -- Launch of Brand Ambassador Network;
- b) Para No. 6.5 -- Amendment in the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulations) Act, 1992;
- c) Para No. 7.4 -- Food Grain Export Policy;
- d) Para No. 11.7 -- Incentive to local bodies for promoting rubberisation of road; and
- e) Para No. 17.3 -- To revamp the DGCI&S.

(v) I am also laying a detailed Action Taken Report on each recommendation for the information of hon. Members.

MR. SPEAKER: I compliment you for the statement.