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Title : Stement regarding the status of implementaion of recommendations contained in the 70th Report of Standing Committee on Commerce on Demands for Grants (2005-06) pertaining to Department of Commerce.

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): Sir, in puruance of Directions 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin--Part II dated September 1, 2004, I am making this statement on the status of the implementation of recommendations contained in the 70th Report of the Standing Committee on Demands for Grants (2005-06) in respect of Department of Commerce.

(i) Standing Committee examined the Demands for Grants for the year 2005-06 of the Department of Commerce in its meeting held on 29th March, 2005. The Report was presented to the Lok Sabha on 20th April, 2005. The Report contained 52 recommendations.

(ii) These recommendations of the Committee mainly relate to approval of the Scheme of National Export Insurance Accounts (NEIA), timely clearing of pending cases of refund on account of duty drawback on deemed exports, timely completion/inspection of projects undertaken under the ASIDE Scheme, evaluation of the ASIDE Scheme, wide publicity of the Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAI), launching of brand ambassadors network with a view to providing an impetus to India's trade and investment relations with other countries, investors/entrepreneurs being encouraged to set up their business in the Special Economic Zones, extension of ongoing "Focus" programmes with encouraging results, finalisation of Foodgrain Export Subsidy Scheme, setting up of Aqua Fishes Technology Park for mass production of ornamental fishes, equipping and

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upgrading of laboratories for carrying out analysis of antibiotics, pesticide residues and other contamination, radical steps for salvaging the tea industry, long-term solution to the crisis in coffee industry, approval of the Modified Rubber Plantation Development Scheme, upgrading quality of spices by adopting modern processing technologies and supporting product research for higher value addition, development of high value herbal spices for exports, setting up of Cashew Board etc.

(iii) Out of 52 recommendations, the Government has not accepted three recommendations, i.e. recommendation no. 2.12, 14.5 and 20 regarding mechanism for better exports related data, setting up of Cashew Board and appointment of Commercial Attache by the Department of Commerce. The reasons for non-acceptance of recommendations are given in the annexures. The recommendation regarding data relating to export of services being included for determining the export performance of the States for assistance under the ASIDE Scheme to the States, the matter is still under consideration of the Department.
