

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2742
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2003
CHALLENGES BEFORE RICE/WHEAT EXPORTERS
A. VENKATESH NAIK

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

(a) whether the experts have expressed grave apprehension in regard to the potential of rice and wheat exporters to face the new challenges as a result of the agreement signed with the WTO; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to fully equip the rice and wheat exporters to face the challenges of the WTO?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) & (b) : WTO's Agreement on Agriculture concluded in the Uruguay Round inter alia permits developing countries facilities for reimbursing certain costs such as for marketing, upgradation, internal and external freight for agri-exports. This window has been and is being used by India to facilitate exports of rice and wheat.