

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1999
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2005
VANILLA FARMERS
Thomas Shri P.C.

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

- (a) whether the Government has initiated discussions with farmers and Members of Parliament regarding problems of Vanilla farmers;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard and the conclusions arrived at these discussions;
- (c) whether any decision has been taken to save farmers; and
- (d) if so, the action taken to implement the same?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Commerce & Industry Minister took a meeting on 27 June 2005, which was attended by Members of Parliament, growers and exporters. As a follow up, another meeting, under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Commerce, was held on 26 October 2005. The major conclusions/ decisions of these meetings are:

Setting up of a credible electronic system for dissemination of information on production, prices etc of vanilla beans.

Undertaking a study by State Trading Corporation (STC) with a view to provide benchmark information on global trends in demand, supply and prices. The study would look into the viability of setting up of a processing plant for extraction of natural vanillin as well as improvement in various packages of practices relating to vanilla cultivation and processing.

Increasing domestic demand for natural vanillin.

Monitoring of import of low quality green beans into India.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. The following action has been taken to implement the decisions of the aforesaid meetings, with a view to improve the returns to the farmers:

\$ STC has completed the study.

\$ Central Board of Excise & Customs and Directorate General of Foreign Trade have been requested to look into the matter regarding import of low quality green beans and to take appropriate corrective action.

\$ National Dairy Development Board / Amul have been requested to consider use of natural vanillin in place of synthetic vanillin with a view to increase domestic demand for natural vanillin.

\$ Spices Trading Corporation Limited (STCL) has agreed to procure 3 Metric Tonnes of cured vanilla beans for extraction of natural vanillin to be sold in the domestic and international market.

\$ Improvements in electronic system for dissemination of information on production and prices etc. of vanilla beans are being taken up.