

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:310

ANSWERED ON:21.02.2006

TRADE DEFICIT

Bose Shri Subrata;Deora Shri Milind Murl;Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

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

- (a) whether India`s exports have registered a high growth during 2005;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to further increase the exports and control imports?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAI RAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) According to the latest export data available from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics(DGCI&S), Kolkata, India`s exports registered a growth of 19 percent in dollar terms during April-January 2005-06 over the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) There are no measures to restrict imports or artificially balance trade that may lead to dampening of the growth of the economy or resurgence of inflationary pressures. However, export promotion is a constant endeavor of the Government and a Foreign Trade Policy was announced on 31st August, 2004 with the objective of doubling India`s overall global merchandise trade within the next five years. The Government has recently taken a number of initiatives to promote exports. These include, inter-alia, bringing into force the SEZ Act 2005 to trigger a larger flow of foreign and domestic investment in infrastructure and productive capacity; setting up Free Trade Warehousing Zones (FTWZs); giving a major thrust to procedural simplification to reduce transaction cost of exporters; and signing regional trade agreements to leverage exports in line with India`s comparative advantage.