

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3927
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2006
TRADE WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES
Kalmadi Shri Suresh;Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) the details of the `FOCUS AFRICA PROGRAMME` launched by the Government last year and the extent to which it has succeeded in enhancing trade relations with African countries;
- (b) whether China`s aggressive investment and trade offensive has put our trade relations with African countries into jeopardy;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to enhance trade relations with African countries?

Answer

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

(a):The `Focus Africa Programme` was launched on 31.3.2002 with focus on seven countries of Sub-Saharan African (SSA) Region, viz., South Africa, Nigeria, Mauritius, Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana and Ethiopia, as one of the initiatives for addressing the imperative to expand India`s trade with Africa. With a view to further widen and deepen India`s trade with Africa, the scope of this Programme was further extended w.e.f. 1.4.2003 to Angola, Botswana, Ivory-Coast, Madagascar, Mozambique, Senegal, Seychelles, Uganda, Zambia, Namibia and Zimbabwe, along-with the six countries of North Africa, viz., Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Sudan, Morocco and Algeria. Under this Programme, the Government extends assistance to exporters, Export Promotion Councils, etc., to visit countries in Africa, organize trade fairs and sponsors African trade delegation to visit India.The initiative has helped boost bilateral trade between India and African counties.

(b)No,Sir.

(c)Does not arise.

(d)The measures that have been taken by the Government to enhance trade relations with African countries include strengthening of institutional arrangements, such as, Trade Agreements, Joint Commissions and Joint Trade Committees. Business to Business interactions have also been encouraged with a view to further enhance trade relations with African Countries.