

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:82

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2006

EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CENTRES

Singh Deo Smt. Sangeeta Kumari;Thummar Shri Virjibhai

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

- (a) whether the Government has identified Export Development Centres to further encourage exports ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide them financial assistance;
- (d) if so, whether some advisory system has been conceptualised to promote mutual relationship between banks and small entrepreneurs to facilitate exports; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI KAMAL NATH)

(a) to (e): The Ministry has not identified any Export Development Centers. However, under the Foreign Trade Policy, Government recognizes certain towns in specific geographical locations, which are producing goods of value Rs 1000 Cr or more in general, and Rs 250 Cr or more for Handloom, Handicraft, Agriculture and Fisheries sectors as Towns of Export Excellence. The benefits for Towns of excellence are:

- (i) Common Service Providers in these towns are entitled for EPCG scheme,
- (ii) Recognized association of units in these towns can access the funds under the Market Access Initiative Scheme for creating focused technological services and
- (iii) Towns of export excellence receive priority for assistance under ASIDE Scheme for rectifying identified critical infrastructure gaps.