

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1999  
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005  
OIL-FOR-FOOD PROGRAMME IN IRAQ  
Patil Shri Balasaheb Vikhe

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether an interim report by the UN appointed panel investigating the oil-for-food programme in Iraq has depicted the programme as `tainted`;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the extent to which India participated in the UN's oil-for-food programme?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) & (b) The interim report of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme has noted that the selection process for the major contractors for the Programme did not conform to established financial and competitive bidding rules and failed to meet the organization's own standards of fairness, objectivity and transparency. The interim report has also found inadequacies in the United Nation's internal audit with regard to monitoring and review of the Programme.

(c) Several Indian companies participated in the U.N. Oil-for-Food programme. Major items of export included tea, sugar, wheat, soyabean meals, yarn, electrical goods, machinery and equipment, pharmaceutical products, spares of oil industry, tobacco etc. The major import was oil. As per U.N. data available till November 2003, the total volume of Indian exports to Iraq under the Oil-for-Food Programme was around US \$ 1.3 billion.