

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 16.12.2009**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**OPENING OF TRADE CENTRES IN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES .**

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Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy

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

- (a) whether in order to capitalize on the lull in trade between the US and Latin American countries, Government proposed to open up four to five trade centres in a few Latin American countries on a permanent basis, to create awareness among investors and business people alike on Indian products;
- (b) whether India and Latin American countries have potential to treble their bilateral trade from 2007-08 level of \$ 12 billion to \$36 billion by 2012-2013; and
- (c) whether Government is also planning to set up help desks across India like Bangalore and Hyderabad to provide valuable information on Latin American countries?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) to (c) At present, thirteen Indian Missions are functioning in the Latin America region. Ten posts of Marketing Assistants have been provided in nine Indian missions of the said region to exclusively look after the trade related matters and to respond queries of exporters and importers interested to undertake business with Latin America and vice versa.

FOCUS : LAC Programme of Government is in force envisaging incentives / promotional measures for supporting and encouraging Indian exporters and companies to boost our trade to Latin America . Details of FOCUS: LAC programme are available on website of the Department.

As a result, trade between India and Latin America has been showing upward trend. Bilateral trade between India and Latin America increased from US \$ 4021.51 million in 2004-05 to US \$ 15,752.47 million in 2008-09.