

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 827
ANSWERED ON 07/02/2024

IMPORT/EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE

827. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any steps are being taken to revise negotiation on import and export of agricultural produce from India;
- (b) if so, the details regarding the same;
- (c) whether the Government has observed that farmers of Kerala are facing severe crisis as a result of various trade agreements;
- (d) if so, the steps taken to promote the interests of import and export produce of farmers from Kerala; and
- (e) the agreements that prevent raising import duties of certain agricultural products that harm the interest of Indian farmers?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) & (b) Negotiations on import and export of agricultural produce from India are a part of bilateral forums & trade agreement negotiations with various countries. While negotiating duty concessions/ market access for specific agriculture products to the partner countries, the interests of domestic production and producers are always kept in consideration.

(c) to (e) The Government has been taking steps to promote exports of agriculture products, including from Kerala. The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), a statutory organisation under the administrative control of Department of Commerce, has the mandate to promote exports of agricultural and processed food products. APEDA has been providing assistance to the exporters under various components of its Export

Promotion Scheme. Further, the Department of Commerce has not received any reports of Farmers of Kerala facing crisis as a result of various trade agreements.

The Department of Commerce provides financial assistance to promote exports, including exports of agricultural products, through Market Access Initiatives (MAI) Scheme, and Export Promotion Schemes of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Tea Board, Coffee Board, Spices Board etc.

Further, a Farmer Connect Portal has been developed for providing a platform for farmers, Farmer-Producer Organizations (FPOs) and cooperatives to interact with exporters. Buyer-Seller Meets (BSMs) are organized in the clusters to provide export-market linkages. Regular interactions, through video conferences, are held with the Indian Missions abroad, to assess and tap export opportunities. Country specific BSMs, through Indian Missions, are also organized.

The maximum import duty rates (Bound Rates) that can be levied by India on import of agriculture products have been decided under the General Agreement on Tariffs & Trade (GATT). The Applied Rates of import duties are usually considerably lower than the Bound Rates and, if required, there is sufficient scope for increasing the Applied Rates to protect the interests of Indian farmers.
