

Regarding withdrawal of ban on export of onion-laid

DR. SUJAY VIKHE PATIL (AHMEDNAGAR): India accounts for about a fourth of the global onion output and is the 3rd largest exporter. The export of onion has been banned from 8th December, 2023 till 31st March, 2024 to ensure availability of onion to the domestic consumers at affordable prices. Onion prices have crashed in wholesale markets in Maharashtra including Nashik, Ahmednagar, Pune, and parts of Marathwada which are major onion-growing zones in the State. The ban has been enforced, even as the late kharif crop is being harvested and the rabi crop is being planted. Onion farmers have been suffering losses amid unseasonal rains, hailstorms and the current drought. A complete ban on onion exports is affecting onion growers due to decline in prices and the short shelf life of onion. I request the Government to withdraw the order for banning export of onion to ensure that farmers can sell their crops at remunerative prices in the market. I also request the Government to provide for an open policy for export of onions on the same lines as sugar wherein the Government decides a specific quota of sugar to be allowed for export, which stops when the limit is reached and the allocation is reviewed after certain periods to ensure.