

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3147
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2000
DNA TEST OF BASMATI RICE BY BRITAIN .
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

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

- (a) whether the British Government has asked the Indian exporters of Basmati Rice to provide samples of Basmati Rice for DNA testing;
- (b) if so, the reasons for asking samples by the British Government;
- (c) whether Indian exporters have opposed the demand of British Government;
- (d) if so, whether Government have decided to support Indian exporters in this matter;
- (e) if not, the extent to which the Government are agreed with the decision of British Government;
- (f) whether any agreement has been reached between two countries in this regard; and (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

- (a) & (b) The British Government have asked the Ministry of Commerce for providing samples of Basmati rice for DNA testing to identify varieties of basmati rice so as to distinguish all the varieties of basmati rice.
- (c) to (g) The samples would be provided in the powdered form or as an extracted genomic DNA to avoid propagation of the seeds.