

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5250
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2000
PATENT OF BASMATI RICE
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

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

- (a) Whether India lacked a database on Basmati rice to substantiate its claims against the patents granted abroad ;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken by the Government to develop a database on Basmati rice and laydown the characteristics for around 12 varieties of Basmati rice found in India?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) to (c) : Based on the information available, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Exports Development Authority (APEDA) filed a petition in the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) challenging claims 15-17 of the patent on Basmati rice lines and grains granted to M/S Rice Tec Inc, USA. In response to this petition, M/S Rice Tec filed a statement in the USPTO withdrawing claims 4 and 15-17 of the said patent. Challenging of other claims would depend upon the evidentiary value of documents required to satisfy ex-parte proceedings in the USPTO.