

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:852

ANSWERED ON:27.07.2001

SEPARATE EXPORT ZONE FOR EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

(a) whether the Government are considering to establish separate export zone for export of agricultural products on the lines of export processing zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof; (

(c) whether these zones would be provided all the facilities and assistance at par with export processing zones; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the share of agricultural products likely to increase in the total export for the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 852 ANSWER ON 27TH JULY 2001 REGARDING SEPARATE EXPORT ZONE FOR EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS :

(a) to (d) : The Government is considering to establish Agri Export Zones which will be different from the existing export processing zones. The concept of Agri Export Zone takes a comprehensive view of a particular produce/ product located in a geographically contiguous area for the purpose of developing and sourcing raw materials, their processing/ packaging, leading to final exports. The entire effort is centered around a cluster approach of identifying the potential products, geographical region in which these products are grown and adopting an end to end approach of integrating the entire process, right from the stage of production till it reaches the consumption stage.

The idea behind Agri Export Zones is to dovetail all the incentive schemes of the State and Central Governments and evolve a comprehensive package of services provided by all state Government Agencies and Agricultural universities and all institutions and agencies of the Central Government for intensive delivery in these zones. Such services would be managed and coordinated by the State Government. The State Governments will identify the produce which would be developed for exports having comparative advantage and potential in the markets abroad and the regular supply of which could be ensured and submit the proposal to the Government of India for clearance. It will, thereafter, enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with APEDA for implementation of the proposal.

The facilities provided in Agri Export Zones are not the same as in export processing zones and hence they are dealt with in separate chapters of the Exim Policy. The extent to which the share of export of agricultural products in the total exports of the country will increase as a result of the proposed establishment of Agri Export Zones cannot be exactly quantified.