

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:21  
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2000  
QUALITY UPGRADATION OF AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS  
VUKKALA RAJESWARAMMA

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

(a) whether the Government propose to assist the agricultural producers by providing them infrastructure investment like storage, processing and refrigerated transport for quality upgradation of agricultural exports to enable them to attain the high standards of the affluent countries; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN )

(a) & (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 21 FOR REPLY ON 25TH FEBRUARY, 2000 REGARDING 'QUALITY UPGRADATION OF AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS' BY SHRI DR. RAJESHWARAMMA VUKKALA

(a) & (b): The Government has been providing financial assistance for enhancing production and productivity, preservation of and improvement in quality, development of packaging, improvement of infrastructure and other measures to facilitate exports of all agricultural products to meet with high standards expected in international markets of such products that are traded. The value of agro items exported excluding marine products, tea, coffee, castor oil and cotton during the last three years is:

1997-98	Rs.15169 crores
1998-99	Rs. 15960 crores
1999-2000 (April-Oct.)	Rs. 7702.78crores

Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta.

Some of the steps taken to boost agro exports which also include providing infrastructure, quality upgradation, refrigerated transport etc. in this respect are:-

(i) Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical know how of farmers through demonstration, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers;

(ii) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control including adoption of quality systems such as ISO 9000/HACCP at export units;

(iii) Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for eliminating pest incubation in the product especially mangoes for gaining access to overseas markets;

(iv) Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits, vegetables & floriculture products;

(v) Providing assistance for setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, lack of contamination and ensuring freedom from bacteria & fungi;

(vi) Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment;

(vii) Providing financial assistance to exporter/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/cold storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems (Pack Houses);

(viii) Grant of air freight subsidy for export of selected fresh vegetables and fresh fruits and floricultural products;

(ix) Mechanising harvest operations, purchase of inter-mediate packaging material for domestic transportation of the product;

(x) Setting up of mechanised handling facilities including sorting, grading, washing, waxing, ripening, packaging and palletisation;

(xi) Providing facilities for pre shipment treatment such as fumigation, x-ray screening, hot water dip treatment;

(xii) Setting up of environment control systems such as pollution control, effluent treatment etc;

(xiii) Setting up of specialised facilities such as high humidity cold storage, deep freezers, controlled atmosphere or modified atmosphere storages;

(xiv) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions;

(xv) Providing assistance in development of data base and dissemination of market information.