

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:739  
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2000  
VARIETIES OF BASMATI RICE  
SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government have a proposal to split the basmati rice into traditional and evolved varieties under the pressure of importers;
- (b) if so, whether Rice Research Institute (RRI) has been consulted by the Government in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government have received any protest from the RRI against such move of the Government as it is likely to harm the grower's interest; and
- (f) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

( SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA )

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.739 TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 17th May, 2000 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) to (f): The Government of India, in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has a proposal to introduce a 'Comprehensive Quality Monitoring System for Basmati' for protecting the country's commercial interest in the international market. The proposed system, inter alia, contains:

(a) Proper classification of basmati rice and prescription of standards to establish the quality of the product; and

(b) Quality assurance to establish the authenticity of 'basmati' as declared by the exporters by analysing and creating an audit trail from farm to the consumer. This classification, on Product parentage criterion, categorises 'basmati rice', amongst others, into 'Traditional Indian' and 'Evolved Indian' basmati rice varieties.

A draft of the Comprehensive Quality Monitoring System has been formulated in consultation with the various Rice Research Institutes. The Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad (ICAR), had initially held a view that both traditional and evolved basmati rice are similar in their characteristics, and therefore, should not require separate categorisation. Subsequently, during the consultation process, it was brought out that the DNA finger printing method, instituted in the United Kingdom, to scan basmati rice imported into that country, has the ability to distinguish traditional varieties from evolved varieties. The traditional varieties of basmati fetch higher price in the international market. Therefore, a consensus was reached among the Government and the Research Institutes, including the Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad, to prescribe a separate categorisation for traditional and evolved varieties of basmati rice in the 'Comprehensive Quality Monitoring System for Basmati'. The proposed classification would help; the country to earn more foreign exchange on exports and help consumers obtain the original products consistently.