

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5835
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2003
DESTRUCTION OF SEA FOOD CONTAINERS
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

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

- (a) whether some countries importing sea food from India are destroying the sea food containers rejected by them;
- (b) whether the sea food exporters have strongly protested about the destruction of the rejected sea food containers;
- (c) whether the sea food exporters association has demanded the return of the exported products not accepted by the importing countries instead of their destruction; and
- (d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to help the sea food exporters in the matter so as to save them from the financial losses?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a): Information has been received that the French health authorities have destroyed some consignments of marine products exported by India.

(b) & (c): Yes, Sir.

(d): The Competent Authority in India viz: the Export Inspection Council had requested the concerned authorities in the importing country to return the cargo for inspection, testing and further necessary action in India, instead of destroying it. The Government of India has strongly protested against the destruction of the consignments and took up with all Indian Missions in EU countries to impress upon the respective authorities to return the cargo to the country of export when the cargo failed to meet the required quality standards of the importing country, instead of destroying them. Union Commerce Minister in his meeting with French Minister for Trade & Commerce held in February, 2003 also raised this issue. The issue was also taken up with the European Commission authorities during the bilateral Indo-EU Joint Commission meeting held in March, 2003. At the same time Government/EIC have also impressed upon our sea food exporters to take all steps necessary so as to avoid such contingencies arising out of rejection.