

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:756
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2003
MEETING WITH EU ON AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS
RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether any meeting between the representatives of Indian Agricultural Exporters and the Chief Commissioner of European Union was held on agricultural exports;
- (b) if so, whether the exporters of agricultural products in India have been facing difficulties to meet the very high sanitary and phytosanitary standards;
- (c) if so, whether the Government have taken up this issue with the European Commission;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to boost the agricultural exports?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

- (a) to (d): Government of India is in regular touch with the European Union (EU) for addressing the difficulties being faced by Indian agricultural exports to EU market, especially with reference to EU's health and sanitary/phytosanitary standards for agricultural products. These issues were recently highlighted to the European Commission in the meetings of the India-EU Working Group on Agriculture/Marine Products and India-EU Sub Commission on Trade Cooperation. In these interactions, EU side has been sensitized about the difficulties being faced by the Indian agriculture sector and the need for early redressal of these difficulties.
- (e): Steps taken by the Government to boost agricultural exports include implementation of the concept of Agri Export Zones, focusing on growth areas like organic food, processed food etc. and addressing the quality related issues on agricultural products.