

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2534

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2008

BASMATI TRADEMARK FOR PAKISTAN

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

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

- (a) whether Pakistan intends to register the trademark `Basmati Rice` in the name of the Basmati Growers` Association in Lahore;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is a need to amend the agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) Act, 1985 to empower the Authority to register and protect intellectual property rights or similar rights including `Geographical Indications` for certain special agriculture products;
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to amend the APEDA Act, 1985; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government to counter the Pakistani move to register the trademark `basmati rice` in the name of the Basmati Growers` Association in Lahore?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

- (a)&(b) The Registrar of Trade Marks in Pakistan has allowed the registration of Basmati Rice as a collective mark on an application by the Basmati Growers' Association of Lahor. This decision has been appealed against in the High Court of Sind.
- (c)&(d) Yes Sir, the Government has amended the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) Rules 1986 vide Notification dated December 3, 2008 whereby functions of APEDA include the measures for registration and protection of Geographical Indications for select agricultural products.
- (e) The Government of India, through APEDA, has filed an appeal in the High Court of Sind, Karachi, which has been admitted for regular hearing.