

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2961

ANSWERED ON:22.03.2005

RED CHILLI TRADE

Appadurai Shri M.;Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Kalmadi Shri Suresh;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Singh Shri Uday;Verma Shri Rajesh

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

(a) whether Britain and other countries due to the presence of Carcinogenic colouring agent in India's red chilli have rejected consignment fearing the presence of SUDAN-1 and also rejected contaminated spices;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on our export;

(c) whether Government have made any investigation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY( SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Some European Countries including Britain have, reportedly, found SUDAN, a carcinogenic dye, in some consignments of chilli powder exported from India. Recently, UK's Food Standard Agency (FSA) ordered a recall of 575 products in which red chilli powder alleged to be contaminated with Sudan 1 dye was used as an ingredient. Exports of chilli / chilli products from India have not been affected, as is evident from substantial increase in the exports of chilli. Total exports of chilli from India was 114,000 tonnes (valued at Rs. 421.21 crores) during April 2004 to January 2005 as compared to 54,000 tonnes (valued at Rs. 243.81 crores) in the corresponding period of previous year.

(c) & (d): A preliminary investigation has been conducted by the Spices Board. It has been indicated that:-

#The export consignment believed to have been contaminated with Sudan 1 was imported into the UK in 2002.

# No documentary evidence has been given by the FSA so far that establishes the involvement of Indian exporters.

# The reported presence of Sudan in many of the Rapid Alert reports issued by countries in the European Union was too low to be suggestive of deliberate adulteration. To that extent, some of the Rapid Alerts can be disputed.

# The export license of the firms, who have been found to be repeatedly indulging in adulteration, have been suspended.