

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:335

ANSWERED ON:19.04.2010

EXPORT OF MARINE PRODUCTS

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Vijayan Shri A.K.S.

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

- (a) whether the European Union (EU) is the largest market for export of marine products from India;
- (b) if so, the details of export of such products during the last three years;
- (c) whether the EU countries have introduced or recently proposed to introduce certain restrictions including tests such as antibiotic residues and micro organisms on export of marine products from India;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (e) the procedural and financial problems being faced regarding export of marine products to EU countries; and
- (f) the measures being taken by the Government to implement its notification for registration of companies dealing with Aqua products alongwith other corrective steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.335 FOR ANSWER ON 19-04-2010 REGARDING "EXPORT OF MARINE PRODUCTS"

(a & b): Yes, Madam. European Union (EU) accounts for 33.29% of total marine product exports (in US\$) from India. During 2008-09 India exported 1,55,161 metric tons of marine products to EU valued at US \$ 635.34 million i.e.Rs. 2,854.07 crores

Details of marine products exports to EU during the last three years and during April – January 2009-10 (provisional) are given below:-

Export of marine products to European Union

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 Apr-Jan##
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Quantity in M.T.	1,49,773	1,49,381	1,55,161	1,43,377
Value in Rs.	2,760.32	2,664.24	2,854.07	2,664.58
Value in US\$	610.95	663.17	635.34	561.31

##(Provisional)

(c & d): Yes, Madam. EU has introduced EC Regulation no. 1005/2008 dated 29-09-2008, according to which every consignment of wild catch fish and fishery products exported to EU from any country, must be accompanied by a validated Catch Certificate. This requirement is aimed at ensuring that the marine products imported by EU countries are not from illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

(e): Indian exporters are experiencing two procedural issues in respect of marine products exports to EU. The first one is the insistence of EU on validated catch certificate as per its regulation on IUU fishing.

The second one relates to the procedure followed by EU members on "Rapid Alerts" issued by EC. Whenever a consignment is tested positive as per norms for presence of residues(antibiotic, microbial or chemical), European Commission (EC) issues notifications called "Rapid Alerts" and keeps the concerned exporter on 'alert' status. The number of minimum consecutive checks to be conducted thereafter to withdraw the 'Alert' status is not uniform and differs from one member country to the other. Besides, even after the country where the problem originated has lifted the 'alert' status, other member state may still continue with the control measures without knowing the current status in other member states. Thus there is lack of harmonization of 'Rapid Alerts' procedure

amongst the EU member countries.

(f): Government of India has issued notification on 28-10-2009 mandating the exporters to source the raw material for aqua culture products only from registered aqua farms. Export Inspection Council of India (EIC) is ensuring that the exported material is sourced only from registered aqua farms.

Registration of aqua culture farms is the subject matter of State Governments and Coastal Aquaculture Authority of India (CAA). This issue has been taken up at the highest level with Chief Secretaries of the concerned states. Meetings have also been periodically held with the Fishery secretaries of the states for speedy completion of the process. The Centre is monitoring the registration process through MPEDA which is the statutory body promoting marine products exports. MPEDA is persuading more and more farmers to apply for registration with CAA and the state government agencies.