

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1024

ANSWERED ON:15.11.2010

EXPORT OF WHEAT AND RICE

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram; Mitra Shri Somendra Nath

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to export five lakh tonnes of rice and wheat to Bangladesh despite ban;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is demand for lifting restriction on rice export and if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken to ensure the availability of rice in domestic market and maintain its price?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a-b) Yes, Madam. The Government has decided to export 3 lakh tonnes of parboiled non-basmati rice and 2 lakh tonnes of wheat to Bangladesh at prevalent economic cost to Food Corporation of India. This decision was taken by the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM), in its meeting, held on 26th of July 2010 after considering the request of Government of Bangladesh.

(c) The Government has received requests for lifting restriction on export of non-basmati rice from some quarters. The petitioners stressed that restricting export of non-basmati rice works only to the disadvantage of farmers and deprives the Indian diaspora of their favourite food.

(d) The Government has reduced import duty to zero for rice; banned export of non-basmati rice; maintained the Central Issue Price (CIP) for rice at Rs. 5.65/kg for BPL families; imposed stock limit orders for paddy and allocated an additional quota for ration card holders to ensure the availability of rice in domestic market and maintaining its price.