

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3041
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2010
PESTICIDE IN BASMATI RICE
Shivanagouda Shri Shivaramagouda

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

- (a) whether a several thousands tonnes of Indian basmati rice exported to European countries has been rejected after it is found to contain excessive pesticide residue;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details regarding percentage of export of Indian farm products that have been rejected by foreign countries due to excessive use of pesticides;
- (d) whether Indian Basmati Rice Exporters Association served legal notice to the European laboratory challenging the method of testing; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a to c) There were reports from exporters of Basmati Rice that the importers in the E.U. have requested them to recall the consignments of Basmati rice, based on test reports from some private laboratories, declaring presence of pesticide residues in excess of the EU Maximum Residues Levels (MRLs). However, no official agency in EU has conveyed rejections on this basis. There are no significant rejections on account of containing excessive pesticides residue.

(d & e) The All India Basmati Rice Exporters Association has issued, with the support of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), legal notices to the concerned laboratories asking them to confirm that test methods followed by them were in conformity with the European Commission's Guidelines on Method Validation and Quality Control Procedures for Pesticide Residues Analysis in Food & Feed. The Department of Commerce have also taken up the matter with SANCO in EU to ensure that private organizations do not create non-tariff barriers for export of Agro Products from India.