

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:974

ANSWERED ON:15.11.2010

IMPORT OF BRANDED HONEY

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the European Union has banned the import of branded honey from India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government to maintain the credibility and quality of Indian goods abroad?

Answer

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

(a&c) Yes, the European Union has banned the export of honey from India, on account of positive detection of heavy metals and other contaminants, reported in the Residual Monitoring Plan. A detailed Action Plan was prepared by the Export Inspection Council, which is the competent authority, and this has been communicated to European Commission. The Action Plan squarely addresses all the issues raised by the Food and Veterinary Office Mission and puts in motion a system to ensure that honey export from India to the European Union is free of contaminants.

Among the steps undertaken include:

Rigorous testing of samples.

Educating bee producers on the contamination arising from lead tins, changing of these tins to food grade plastic tins and subsidising purchase of these food grade plastic tins.

At primary production level, National Bee Board, Ministry of Agriculture has conducted various seminars and training for the beekeepers.

Discourage the use of tetracycline and sulphonamides at the primary level. The Drug Controller of India has issued written instruction to the State Authorities with regard to prohibition of sale of these drugs to farmers without prescription.