

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1671

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011

EXPORT AND IMPORT OF ONION

Antony Shri Anto; Das Shri Khagen; Hegde Shri Anant Kumar; Jawale Shri Haribhau Madhav; Pratap Narayanrao Shri Sonawane; Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami; Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala ; Sharma Shri Jagdish; Singh Chaudhary Lal; Singh Shri Ganesh; Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

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

- (a) the details regarding export and import of onion and garlic during the last three years, country-wise;
- (b) the details regarding percentage of export of onion vis-a-vis its production during the said period;
- (c) whether food inflation has increased due to high prices of onion and vegetables as per the data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has decided to ban the export of onions to control the spiralling prices;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the mechanism adopted for imposing the said restriction;
- g) whether Pakistan has not allowed import of onion by road; and
- h) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) The year-wise details of export of onions and garlic to top five destinations during the last three years are given below :

Value in Rupees Crore

Country-wise onion exports

Country	2007-08	Country	2008-09	Country	2009-10
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Bangladesh	410.86	Bangladesh	735.71	Bangladesh	1131.30
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Malaysia	206.42	Malaysia	319.27	Malaysia	413.29
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U A E	144.16	U A E	215.35	Sri Lanka	193.04
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Sri Lanka	107.22	Sri Lanka	158.84	U A E	179.04
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Nepal	23.64	Pakistan	157.61	Pakistan	IR 107.71
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Others	143.44	Others	240.71	Others	295.02
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#### Country-wise garlic exports

Country	2007-08	Country	2008-09	Country	2009-10
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Nepal	0.16	USA	0.64		
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Bangladesh	PR	29.73			
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Philippines	0.12	Jordan	0.45		
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Pakistan	IR	11.49			
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Canada	0.06	Nepal	0.22		
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Thailand	1.98				
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Singapore	0.02	Pakistan	0.20		
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Philippines	0.30				
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Malaysia	0.01	Malaysia	0.15	Mauritius	0.26
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Others	0.04	Others	0.40		
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Others	0.74				
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The year-wise details of Import of onions and garlic during the last three years country-wise are given below:

#### Value in Rupees Crore

##### Country-wise onion imports

Country	2007-08	Country	2008-09	Country	2009-10
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Belgium	0.17	Bangladesh	0.06	Pakistan	0.56
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Pakistan	0.02	Singapore	0.001	Netherland	0.42
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Unspecified	0.05	Spain	0.30		
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Switzerland	0.07				
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##### Country-wise garlic imports

Country	2007-08	Country	2008-09	Country	2009-10
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China P RP	1.43	Indonesia	0.01	China	0.04
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Lao PD RP 0.07 Pakistan 0.10 USA 0.07

Pakistan 4.73 Philippines 0.001 Spain 0.58

Thailand 0.04

(b) As per Indian Horticulture database available upto 2009 published by National Horticulture Board the production of onions in 2007-08 was 13.9 MTs and in 2008-09 was 13.57 MTs. Out of this production, the export of onions in 2007-08 and 2008-09 was 7.19% and 12.30% respectively.

(c) & (d): Rise in prices of onions and vegetables were one of the main contributors to the inflation in food articles during the period from October 2010 to January 2011. The untimely rains and resultant damage to the onion crop was the main reason for the rise in prices.

(e) & (f): The export of Onions was banned by the Govt. of India w.e.f. 22nd Dec. 2010. Export of agriculture products depends on several factors including international demand and supply situation. Whenever, there is scarcity or short supply of the produce in the domestic market, Government takes initiatives like ban/ restriction on exports and fixing of Minimum Export Price (MEP) to ensure availability of such products to consumers at reasonable price. The ban on export of onions has been lifted since 18th February 2011.

(g): There were media reports on ban imposed by Government of Pakistan on export of onion by land route, however, there was no formal notification in this regard.

(h): Does not arise.