

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:45

ANSWERED ON:01.08.2011

BAN ON ONION EXPORTS

Ponnam Shri Prabhakar;Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar;Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarama Swamy

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

- (a) whether there has been a significant decline in the export of onion in this year as compared to previous years;
- (b) if so, the details of the export and import of onion during the last three years, quantity-wise and value-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has banned the export of onion;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether onion is being exported in spite of the scarcity and price rise in the country;
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (g) the details of the agencies involved in the export of onion; and
- (h) the number of times NAFED has revised the minimum export price of onion to check the price rise in the domestic market?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Madam

(b): The details of the export and import of onion (HS Code 0703 1010 & 0712 20 00) during the last three years are indicated below:-

EXPORT

Quantity in Thousand Kgs.

Value in Rs. Lakh

2007-2008 2008-2009 2009-2010

QTY VALUE QTY VALUE QTY VALUE

1067740.78 126618.91 1697662.07 197069.35 1705509.21 255808.03

Source: DGCI&S

IMPORT

Quantity in Thousand Kgs

Value in Rs. Lakh

QTY VALUE QTY VALUE QTY VALUE

237.56 177.73 172.86 122.7 828.41 389.25

Source: DGCI&S

(c) & (d): The Government had imposed a ban on onion export on 22nd December,2010 to contain the sudden spurt in onion prices in the domestic market.

(e) & (f): No, Madam. In view of the moderation in domestic prices and adequate availability of the crop, the ban on export of Bangalore Rose and Krishnapuram varieties onions was lifted vide Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)'s notification dated 10th February, 2011, whereas for general category of onions the ban was lifted vide DGFT's notification dated 18th February,2011.

(g): DGFT has notified 13 canalising agencies for the export of onion Viz (i) National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED)(ii) Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB), (iii) Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Ltd. (GALC),(iv) The Spices Trading Corporation Ltd. (STCL),(v) The Andhra Pradesh State Trading Corporation,(vi) The Karnataka State Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd. (KSCMF), (vii) The National Co-operative Consumers Federation of India Ltd., (NCCF),(viii) The North Karnataka Onion Growers Co-operative Society (NKOCS),(ix) West Bengal Essential Commodities Supply Corporation (WBECS) Ltd., Kolkata,(x) M.P. State Agro Industries Development Corporation (MPSAIDC), Bhopal,(xi) Karnataka State Produce Processing and Export Corporation (KAPPEC), Bangalore,(xii) Madhya Pradesh State Co-operative Oil Seeds Growers Federation Ltd., (xiii) The Andhra Pradesh Marketing Federation (AP MARKFED).

(h): An Inter-ministerial Committee (IMC) has been constituted under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary in the Department of Commerce with Joint Secretary & MD,NAFED, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and Economic Adviser, Department of Consumer Affairs as members to fix the Minimum Export Price (MEP) of onions from time to time. The IMC takes stock of arrivals of onion and modal prices prevailing in the important production and consumption centres and then recommends an MEP of onion to be notified by Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). MEP of onion has been revised by this Committee nine times till date. The last meeting of the IMC, held on 7th July, 2011, recommended an MEP of US \$ 230 PMT for general category of onion and allowed to continue the existing MEP of US \$ 350 for Bangalore Rose and Krishnapuram varieties of onions.