

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5125

ANSWERED ON:05.09.2011

EXPORT OF RICE H .

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

- (a) whether the Government procures rice through Food Corporation of India for exporting it to other countries;
- (b) the details of the total rice exported/ imported both by private companies and the Government agencies including State Trading Corporation (STC) and Minerals and Metals Trading corporation (MMTC) during the last three years, year-wise, quantum-wise and country-wise;
- (c) whether any deficiency/irregularity have been reported in the export/import of rice by some private companies or the Government agencies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon?

Answer

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

- (a) Madam, the Government procures food grains including rice through Food Corporation of India primarily for the public distribution system. However, limited quantities from the central pool are allowed for exports to other countries on diplomatic basis.
- (b) The data regarding export/import of rice to various countries during last three years is given below:

Year	Export (in tons)	Top 5 destinations for export	Import (in tons)
2008-09	24,88,291	Saudi Arab, UAE, Iran, Kuwait, Yemen	85.46
2009-10	21,56,408	Saudi Arab, UAE, Iran, Kuwait, Yemen	65.56
2010-11	16,68,132	Saudi Arab, UAE, Iran, Bangladesh, Kuwait	94.79

(uptoDec. 2010)
(Source : DGCI&S)

(c) & (d) In 2009, the matter of irregularity in export of non-basmati rice to African countries was raised in the Lok Sabha by Shri Sharad Yadav and others on 22.07.2009 under Rule 377/Zero Hour and in Rajya Sabha by Shri D Raja and others on 20.07.2009 under Special Mention/Zero Hour. In this regard Commerce and Industry Minister had given a statement in Lok Sabha on 30.07.2009 and again on 19.11.2010. In accordance with the statement given on the floor of the Lok Sabha on 30.07.2009, an internal inquiry was instituted and the concerned officials of the PSUs were issued show cause notices. Concerned companies, who prima facie were acting in collusion, were debarred from all future transactions with PSUs of the Department of Commerce. The entire matter was referred to CVC who have tendered their advice. Meanwhile, the matter is also under investigation by CBI