

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:120

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2011

EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Hooda Shri Deepender Singh;Mandal Shri Mangani Lal

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

- (a) the details of India's share in the total world trade in agricultural products, import-wise and export-wise;
- (b) whether the total volume of agricultural product exports from the country is still very low;
- (c) if so, the details of the items exported, commodity-wise and country-wise and the total revenue generated from such exports during the last three years;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to boost exports of agricultural products in future;
- (e) whether the Government is formulating any new agricultural export policy to tap the huge potential in this segment; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

a) to f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 120 FOR ANSWER ON 8TH AUGUST 2011 REGARDING "EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS"

(a to c) As per United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database (UNCOMTRADE) 2009/WTO 2009, India's share in export and import of agricultural products in world agricultural trade was 1.8% and 1.31% respectively. The relatively small share is primarily on account of low productivity, large domestic consumption, constraints of supply chain and marketing linkages and lack of warehousing facilities and post harvest technology for processing. Moreover, the essential commodities including foodgrains are allowed to be exported only after meeting the buffer stock and strategic reserve norms. Details of total commodities-wise exports for the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are given at Annexure -I. Details of top five agriculture produce exports, chapter wise (agriculture products group) and country wise for the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are given at Annexure- II.

(d) Encouraging exports is a continuous process. The Government is taking steps to encourage exports of agriculture products through various measures and incentives under Plan schemes of the Commodity Boards and Export Promotion Councils. Further, in order to boost export of Indian products, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry has put in place various schemes namely Market Development Assistance (MDA), Market Assistance Initiative(MAI), Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities(ASIDE), Vishesh Krishi and Gram Upaj Yojana, Focus Product Scheme, Focus Market Scheme, Town of Export Excellence, etc. Trade delegations are regularly sent abroad and Buyer-Seller meets are organized towards this end. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the administrative control of the Department of Commerce is also implementing various Schemes namely;

i) Scheme for Market Development,

ii) Scheme for Infrastructure Development,

iii) Scheme for Quality Development,

iv) Scheme for Research and Development and

v)Transport Assistance Scheme under which financial assistance is extended to the eligible exporters registered with it to boost overall Agri exports.

(e & f) While, no specific new agricultural export policy is being formulated, the Government devises agriculture export strategies from time to time, taking into account a variety of factors that govern the international trade in agriculture products including availability of surplus, international demand and supply situation, quality standards and price competitiveness.