

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:213
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011
BAN ON RICE EXPORT
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received requests for lifting the ban on export of all varieties of non-basmati rice;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to create awareness about the need for export of rice to help the farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Representations from various State Governments viz. Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh etc. as well as from Farmers Associations and Rice Millers Associations from the above States had been received from time to time requesting for allowing export of certain premium varieties of non-basmati rice . The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh also requested to allow export of non-basmati boiled rice and raw rice from Andhra Pradesh. These requests were examined. Considering the sufficient availability of foodgrains in the country and keeping in view the bumper production of rice and wheat and adequate availability in the Central Pool and also due to temporary paucity of storage space, the Government has taken the following decisions:

(i) Government on 10-2-2011 vide Notification No.21 has allowed export of 1,00,000 tons of 'Sona Masuri' and 25,000 tons each of 'Ponni Samba' and 'Matta' varieties of Non-Basmati Rice.

(ii) Government on 9-9-2011 vide Notification No. 71 and 72 has allowed the exports of Non-Basmati Rice & Wheat under Open General Licence(OGI). It had also been decided that these exports shall be made from privately held stocks through EDI enabled ports and monitored closely.

(c) Government,through Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) provides financial assistance besides creating awareness to exporters of agricultural products under Transport Assistance Schemes, Scheme for Market Developpment, Scheme for Quality Development, Scheme for Research & Development and Scheme for Infrastructure Development.