

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4340

ANSWERED ON:20.12.2011

RICE DIPLOMACY

Ponnam Shri Prabhakar;Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar

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

(a) whether rice has recently emerged as a favourite diplomatic tool for India to build strong ties with its East and South Asian neighbours; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this direction?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b): No, Madam. The Government of India, from time to time, has extended assistance in kind by way of foodgrains, including rice, to neighbouring countries in the wake of natural calamities and emergency conditions on humanitarian basis. The ban on export of rice is relaxed on diplomatic basis only on a case to case basis either from the Central Pool or private stocks on the recommendation of the Ministry of External Affairs and approval of the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM). The list of such exports of rice to our neighbouring countries during the last three years is annexed.