

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2029
ANSWERED ON:26.03.2012
EXPORTS OF BASMATI RICE
Bajwa Shri Partap Singh;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether exports of basmati rice has dropped in the last financial year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to boost exports of basmati rice;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to abolish the minimum export price for basmati rice;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether there is a huge demand of Indian rice in the countries like Iraq; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the present position in this regard?

Answer

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

a) No, Madam.

b) Does not arise.

c) Encouraging exports is a continuous process. The Government is taking steps to encourage exports of agro products, including basmati rice through measures and incentives under Plan schemes of the Export Promotion. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the administrative control of the Department of Commerce is also implementing various Schemes to extend financial assistance to the eligible exporters registered with it to boost the overall agri exports. Trade delegations are also mounted to penetrate foreign markets and Buyer-Seller Meets are organized to assist the potential exports. Besides, Basmati Development Fund, under APEDA also caters to the need of basmati rice trade to promote basmati rice export as and when such situation is warranted.

d) Currently, there is no such proposal to abolish the minimum export price for basmati rice.

e) Does not arise.

f) & g) The export of Basmati rice in Iraq in last three years is as under:

Quantity in MT

Year Quantity

2008-09 6071 MT

2009-10 6960 MT

2010-11 31240 MT

As may be seen from the above data, exports to Iraq show significant increase.