

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4015

ANSWERED ON:30.04.2012

ONION EXPORT

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

- (a) whether onion exports from India has been greatly reduced and that Pakistan, Iran and China are posing stiff competition for our export market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the quantity and value of onion exported from the country during each of the last three years;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken to boost the exports of onion recently;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether there has been demands for abolition of minimum export price of onion; and
- (f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a)&(b) The table showing quantity and value of onion exported from the country during the last three years is as under:

Quantity in Thousand MTs  
Values in Rs.Crore

Commodity	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12 (Apr-June)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value

Onions & Shallots	1677.17	2320.51	1164.14	1742.53	369.68#	411.79#
Fresh or Chilled						

Source: DGCIS

# details available only upto June, 2011.

There has been a dip in exports in the year 2010-11 due to ban imposed from 22nd December, 2010 to 18th February, 2011. As regard competition from Pakistan, Iran and China, India has no competition with these countries on account of differences in varieties of onion, its shape, size, season of production, and destination of export.

(c)&(d) The Minimum Export Price (MEP) for onion has been reduced from USD 150 PMT to USD 125 PMT for general varieties and USD 300 PMT to USD 250 PMT for southern varieties by the Government through its Notifications No.96 (RE-2010)/2009-2014 dated 15th February, 2012 and No.94(RE-2010)/2009-2014 dated 11th January, 2012 respectively.

(e) & (f) Yes. An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) meeting with representatives from Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Department of Consumer Affairs, NAFED, APEDA and Department of Commerce was convened on the 28th March, 2012 to consider the issue relating to abolition of MEP. However, a clear-cut consensus did not emerge.