

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2385

ANSWERED ON:27.08.2012

EXPORT OF WHEAT

Dhruvanarayana Shri R. ;Nagar Shri Surendra Singh;Tirkey Shri Manohar

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated/proposed to formulate any long term plan for the export of agricultural products keeping in view their bumper production;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has allowed export of pulses to Maldives during the last one year;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/being taken to control the price of pulses in the domestic market;
- (e) whether the Government also proposes to export two million of wheat in the international market; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a-b) The export of agricultural products depends on various factors including availability of surplus over and above the requirement of buffer stock including strategic reserve, concerns of food security, diplomatic/humanitarian considerations, international demand and supply situation, quality standards in the importing countries, varieties traded and price competitiveness, need to balance between remunerative prices to the growers and availability of agricultural products to common man at affordable prices. The Government takes into account the above factors before deciding on the export of agricultural commodities.

(c-d) Yes, Madam. Government has allowed export of 73 MTs of pulses during the period of 2012-13 and 80 MTs of pulses during 2013-14 to Maldives on diplomatic basis vide Notification No. 118(RE-2010)/2009-14 dated 30.5.2012. The above export will be done by MMTC Ltd. To ensure availability of pulses at reasonable rates to common man, the Government has already banned the export of pulses (except Kabuli Chana and 10,000 MT of organic pulses per annum) since 2006. Beside this, the import of pulses is allowed at 0% import duty.

(e-f) In view of the sufficient availability of wheat in domestic market, Government has allowed the export of wheat under Open General License (OGL) without any quantitative or price restriction w.e.f. 9.9.2011. In addition, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the proposal of Department of Food & Public Distribution in its meeting held on 3.7.2012 for export of 2 million tons of wheat from Central Pool stock of Food Corporation of India (FCI) through Central Public Sector Undertaking (PSUs) of the Department of Commerce.