

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2615

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2012

SEA-FOOD PRODUCTS

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

- (a) the details of the total sea-food produced and exported from the country along with foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years and the current year, country-wise;
- (b) whether the exporters in the country are facing problems with regard to export of sea-food to other countries including Japan;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/being taken by the Government to resolve the issues raised by the sea-food exporters particularly with regard to the Government of Japan;
- (d) whether the Special Task Force on Credit Requirements of Sea-food Industry have submitted its recommendations to the Government and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any of these recommendations has been implemented by the Government so far; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(DR. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a): This Ministry is not compiling the production details of Seafoods. The Ministry of Agriculture is compiling the production statistics of fish in India. As per the figures published by the Ministry of Agriculture the total fish production in India during 2009-10 is 78.51 lakh tons. This is the latest figures from the Ministry of Agriculture. The production from marine is 29.89 lakh tons and from Inland is 48.62 lakh tons.

Total export of Seafoods from India

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (Rs. Crore)	US \$ Million
2009-10	678436	10048.52	2132.84
2010-11	813091	12901.47	2856.92
2011-12	862021	16597.23	3508.45
2012-13 (April-September)	351257 (#)	8050.21	1493.59

(#) Provisional.

Country wise export of marine products for the last 3 years and current year April to September 2012 are given as Annex – 1.

(b) & (c): Yes. The seafood exporters of the country are currently facing problems with regard to the export of shrimp to Japan due to Japan's adoption of default standards of 0.01ppm for Ethoxyquin. Ethoxyquin is a pesticide used in preserving fruits. It is also an anti-oxidant used in fish meal to prevent rancidity. Fish meal is an important component of aquatic feed. The international MRL fixed for this anti-oxidant in fish meal is 150 ppm and the fish meal manufacturers in India are following this norm. As per International Maritime Organisation Rules the addition of Ethoxyquin is a mandatory requirement for transportation of fish meal. The following steps have been taken to resolve the issue:

- i) In order to sort out the issue, a high level delegation consisting of Chairman, MPEDA and Director EIC visited Japan to take up the issue with the Japanese Minister for Health, Welfare and Labour (JMHLW) and the senior Health Authority Officials.
- ii) The Hon'ble Minister for Commerce, Industry and Textiles wrote to his Japanese counterpart seeking his assistance for an early resolution of the issue.
- iii) Subsequently, the Secretary (Commerce), Government of India who led the delegation for 'India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement Review Meeting' held at Tokyo had also taken up this issue strongly and requested for an interim measure

immediately to sort out the problem.

The issue is now under the active consideration of the Japanese Food Safety Commission and it is hoped that a decision in the matter will be taken soon. It is being continuously pursued by MoCI, MPEDA and Embassy of India, Japan for an early settlement of the problem.

(d) to (f): No such recommendations by Special Task Force on credit requirement of seafood industry have come to the notice of this Ministry.