

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2676
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2012
GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION
Mani Shri Jose K.

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

- (a) whether the Government had moved an application for certification of Geographical Indication for Basmati rice with the Chennai Trade Mark and Patent Office two years ago;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority is contesting over 200 cases globally on copyright infringement issues related to basmati rice and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has recently taken up similar issues with the Governments of Philippines and Kenya; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a & b) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has filed an application on November 26, 2008 for registration of Basmati Rice as a Geographical Indication (GI) with the GI Registry in Chennai. Government has mandated APEDA with the responsibility to take measures for registration and protection of the Intellectual Property rights vested in Basmati Rice vide APEDA (Amendment) Act, 2009, deemed to have come into force on the 13th October 2008.

(c) Yes, Madam. As one of the measures to protect the Intellectual Property rights vested in Basmati Rice, a watchdog agency has been retained by APEDA in UK to screen the trademark registers in various countries and to identify the cases relating to attempt of infringement. Such attempts are opposed by APEDA both in India and in foreign jurisdictions through a law firm retained for this purpose.

(d & e) Based on reports of the programme of Philippines Government to cultivate basmati rice in Philippines, matter was taken up by the Department of Commerce through Embassy of India in Manila with their Agriculture Department. The Philippines Government has responded positively stating that they respect Basmati Rice to be a GI of India. There is no such report from Kenya.