

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:143

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2009

EXPORT OF NON- BASMATI RICE

Baske Shri Pulin Bihar;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

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

- (a) whether the Government has allowed export of non-basmati rice to some African countries by relaxing the ban on it in the year 2008;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details regarding the volume and value of non-basmati rice exported during each of the last three years;
- (d) whether some private companies were allowed/given preference to export rice over the State-owned trading agencies;
- (e) if so, the details of the names of such companies and the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

a) to f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 143 FOR ANSWER ON 30TH NOVEMBER 2009 REGARDING "EXPORT OF NON-BASMATI RICE"

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Escalating food prices in the later half of 2007 created situations of extreme distress in many parts of the world especially in the Least Developed Countries(LDCs) and some poor African countries. The Governments of some African Countries approached the Government of India with a request to sell limited quantities of non basmati rice. Keeping in view the country's close international ties with these African countries and the delicate supply position they were facing, it was decided on diplomatic considerations to authorise the export, in relaxation of the ban, of limited quantities of 1.349 Million tonnes of non-basmati rice to various African countries, between January, 2008 to May, 2009. Of this quantity only 1,21,500 tonnes was exported and this export was carried out only by the PSUs.

(c) A Statement giving the details of volume and value of non-basmati rice exported for the country as a whole during each of the last three years as well as by MMTC Limited, PEC Limited and State Trading Corporation Limited (STC) is laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Export of 1,21,500 tonnes Non-Basmati Rice to certain African countries, in relaxation of the Export Ban, was made only by the PSUs.

(e)&(f) In view of the above, does not arise.