

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3785
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012
EXPORT OF COMMODITIES
Singh Shri Pashupati Nath;Sule Supriya

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

- (a) the quantum of iron ore, coal and rare earth minerals exported during each of the last three years and the current year, value-wise, item-wise and country-wise;
- (b) the quantum of fruits and vegetables exported during each of the last three years and the current year, value-wise and country-wise;
- (c) whether the Government accords priority to export of iron ore, coal and rare earth minerals instead of export of agricultural products including fruits and vegetables despite their huge demand in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the corrective steps being taken by the Government to enhance the export of agricultural products?

Answer

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

(a) and (b) : Details of exports of iron ore, coal, rare earth minerals, fruits and vegetables are given in Annexure.

(c) to (e) : Iron ore surplus to domestic industry is being exported. Exports of iron ore have been predominantly constituted of iron ore fines. The domestic steel industry primarily consumes iron ore lumps as domestic consumption of fines is limited due to inadequate pelletization/ sintering capacity. Due to levy of export duty @ 30% ad valorem on both iron ore lumps and fines with effect from 30th December, 2011 and higher railway freight on export cargo for movement of iron ore, the exports of iron ore have declined. There is no export incentive scheme or export promotion scheme for export of coal and rare earth minerals.

The Government is taking steps to encourage exports of agro products including fruits and vegetable through measures and incentives under Plan schemes of the Commodity Boards and Export Promotion Councils. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the administrative control of the Department of Commerce is also implementing various schemes to extend financial assistance to the eligible exporters registered with it to boost the overall agri exports. Besides these measures, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry has put in place various schemes namely Market Development Assistance (MDA), Market Assistance Initiative (MAI), Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE), Vishesh Krishi and Gram Upaj Yojana, Focus Product Scheme, Focus Market Scheme, Town of Export Excellence, etc. to provide assistance to encourage exports. Trade delegations are also mounted to penetrate foreign markets and Buyer-Seller Meets are organized to assist the potential exports.