

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5569
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2013
EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES
Singh Shri Mahabali

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some agricultural commodities are barred from export and futures trading;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with its impact on revenue earning of the country;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to liberalise the foodgrain market in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

(a): Export of agricultural commodities are generally governed by domestic availability, national priorities, international prices and related factors. Most of the agricultural commodities are free to export. However, the export of edible oils and pulses are restricted due to mismatch between their domestic production and consumption. The export of pulses is banned (except export of Kabuli chana and 10,000 MT of organic lentils and pulses per annum). The export of edible oils is also banned except following:

- i) Castor Oil
- ii) Coconut oil
- iii) Deemed export of edible oils (as input raw material) from DTA to 100% EOU.
- iv) Edible oils from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) to Special Economic Zones (SEZs).
- v) Edible oils produced out of minor forest produce.
- v) 10,000 MTs of Organic edible oils per annum.
- vi) Edible oils in branded consumer packs of upto 5 Kgs is permitted with a Minimum Export Price of USD 1500 per MT. However, as per the present policy of the Government, export of wheat and non-basmati rice is allowed under Open General Licence (OGL) from privately held stocks since 09.09.2011.

At present, three commodities are under suspension from futures trading on commodity exchanges. These are Tur, Urad and Rice. Rice was suspended on 27th February, 2007 and Tur and Urad on 23rd January 2007. Futures trading in these commodities was suspended only as a measure of abundant precaution in the wake of rising prices.

(b) to (d): Information is being collected.