

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:234
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2013
EXPORT OF MARINE PRODUCTS
Abdulrahman Shri

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

- (a) whether the European Union (EU) is the largest market for export of marine products from India and if so, the details of the export of such products during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether the EU countries have imposed/proposes to impose certain restrictions including quality tests such as antibiotics residues and micro organisms on import of marine products from India;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the procedural and financial difficulties being faced by the exporters while exporting the marine products to EU countries and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the measures being taken by the Government and the Marine Products Export Development Authority in this regard including efforts made for implementing the notification for registration of companies dealing with marine products?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 234 FOR ANSWER ON 26TH AUGUST, 2013 REGARDING "EXPORT OF MARINE PRODUCTS"

a) No, Madam.

b) & c) The member countries of the European Union (EU) are testing seafood products imported into the European Union from countries including India, at the border inspection posts for various parameters as per relevant European Commission (EC) Regulations and Directives in vogue for various parameters including antibiotic residues and micro organisms from food safety consideration. The EU Directive 96/23/EC stipulates conditions for testing of aquaculture produce for export to EU Countries. Moreover, the Export Inspection Council of India (EIC) has also notified requirements for quality checks which are in line with EU Directives / Regulations, to ensure protection of public health.

d) & e) Mandatory requirements for import of marine products into the EU are notified to the seafood exporters for necessary compliance. Procedural difficulties, if any, are flagged to the EC from time to time at various fora. As regards registration of companies dealing with marine products for export to EU, specific approval for seafood processing establishments by the European Commission is essential for export of fish & fishery products to the European Union member countries. The Government of India has identified EIC as the Competent Authority to accord such approvals. The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) is also a member in the panel of experts for granting such approval to seafood processing establishments. There are 269 seafood processing establishments in the country as on date which are approved for export of their fish & fishery products to the European Union. The MPEDA has implemented various initiatives for monitoring the antibiotic residues / environmental contaminants in the farmed products like National Residue Control Plan (NRCP) and Pre-Harvest Testing (PHT) of aquaculture products.