

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1067

ANSWERED ON:12.08.2013

BAN ON EXPORT

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram; Hazari Shri Maheshwar ; Meghe Shri Datta Raghobaji; Saroj Smt. Sushila; Upadhyay Seema; Vardhan Shri Harsh; Verma Smt. Usha

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

- (a) the quantum of onion exported and imported during each of the last three years and the current year, value-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to impose a ban/restriction on export of onion keeping in view the spiralling prices of onion in the domestic market and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has abolished the Minimum Export Price for onion and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether there has been a ban/restrictions on the export import of certain others agricultural products and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether there has been requests for various State Governments including Maharashtra, farmers and other traders' organisation for lifting the ban/restrictions on the export of these agricultural goods and if so, the reaction of the Government thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) The quantum of onion exported and imported during each of the last three years and the current year (upto May, 2013), value-wise is given as under:-

Export of onions

2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		Apr-June'13#	
Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
11,82,990	1,780.26	13,11,306	1723.81	16,63,805	1964.00	5,11,616	776.47

Source: DGCI&S & NHRDF

Import of onions

2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		Apr-June'13#	
Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
12,506	30.71	13	0.07	450	0.30	N.A	N.A

Source: DGCI&S & NHRDF

N.A - Not Available

(b) No, Madam. The present rise in onion prices is not linked with export. Exports of onion constitute less than 10% of the domestic production (1,66,54,970 MT) during 2012-13. The exports of onion during 2013-14 (April-June) is 5,11,616 MT which is less than the corresponding period of 2012-13 i.e. 5,17,274 MT.

(c) No, Madam. A decision was taken to suspend MEP from 8th May, 2012 to 2nd July, 2012, which was notified by DGFT Notification No. 116 dated 08.05.2012. This was extended till further notice through DGFT Notification No. 3 dated 29.06.2012.

(d) As on date there is no ban on export of agricultural commodities, except ban on export of edible oils in bulk and export of pulses (export of Kabuli Chana and 10,000 MTs of organic pulses per annum are allowed). There is no ban on import of agricultural commodities.

(e) The Government, from time to time, keeps receiving representations from various quarters on various aspects related to agriculture export policy. The export of agricultural products depends on various factors including availability of surplus over and above the requirement of buffer stock including strategic reserve, concerns of food security, diplomatic/humanitarian considerations, international demand and supply situation, quality standards in the importing countries, varieties traded and price competitiveness, need to balance between remunerative prices to the growers and availability of agricultural products to common man at affordable prices. The Government takes into the above factors before deciding on the export of agricultural commodities.

