

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:536

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2013

EXPORT OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Ram Shri Purnmasi; Rama Devi Smt. ; Singh Shri Ijyaraj ; Sudhakaran Shri K.

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

(a) whether there has been a decline in the export of fruits and vegetables from the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the total value of vegetables and fruits imported as well as exported during each of the last three years and the current year along with the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether Saudi Arabia has threatened to take strong action against the imports from India due to higher than permissible pesticide residue levels on the fruits and vegetables produced in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the action being taken by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products and Export Development Authority (APEDA) to avoid such a situation and promote the export of such goods; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to provide financial assistance to various States including Bihar for the promotion of export of fruits and vegetables particularly potato and if so, the details thereof along with the policy being followed by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN)

(a) No, Madam.

(b) The details of total value of vegetables and fruits imported as well as exported during each of the last three years and the current year is given below:

	Value: Rs. crore			
Year	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 (Apr-sep)
Export	6030.03	7156.48	8640.73	5401.23
Import	9319.38	11768.70	16317.70	7734.42

Source: DGCI&S

(c & d) In September, 2013, Ministry of Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia formally raised the issue of presence of higher than permissible level of pesticides in 'pepper' consignments from India with the Embassy of India in Riyadh. The Saudi Authority informed that in case of repetition of crossing the permissible limit of pesticide residue, it would take strong action in this matter.

APEDA has taken the following actions to address the quality issues and also to promote the export of fruits and vegetables:

a) APEDA has been regularly issuing advisory to the exporters of vegetables to Saudi Arabia. The advice to exporters is to strictly adhere to the import requirement of Saudi Arabia and desist from making any shipments without getting the product tested prior to export.

b) APEDA provides financial assistance to exporters of vegetables for implementing Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to assure the safety of produce.

c) For export testing purposes, APEDA has recognized 23 laboratories after following a very stringent procedure of assessment, audit and surveillance.

d) Export standards for 51 fruits and vegetables have been developed and notified under AGMARK.

(e) The Government extends financial assistance to promote exports of fruits and vegetables, including potato under Plan schemes of the Commodity Boards and Export Promotion Councils. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the administrative control of the Department of Commerce implements various schemes to extend financial assistance to the eligible exporters registered with it to promote 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. These schemes are open to exporters/associations from all States/UTs. APEDA has not received any proposal from the State Government of Bihar for setting up of common infrastructure facilities.