

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1617
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013
EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the low volume of export of agricultural products is due to lack of infrastructure and advanced technology in agricultural sector and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the infrastructural facilities being created along with other steps being taken by the Government to promote the export of agricultural products;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any research/study to improve the export share of agricultural products; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon?

Answer

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

(a) As per UNCOMTRADE data, India's share in global agricultural export is 2.80% during the year 2012. The volume of export of agricultural products is relatively low. This is primarily on account of very high domestic consumption, low land holding size, low productivity, constraints of supply chain and marketing linkages as well as low level of processing. Moreover, essential commodities including foodgrains are allowed to be exported only after meeting the buffer stock and strategic reserve norms.

(b) The department of Commerce through Agricultural and Processed Food Products and Export Development Authority (APEDA) extends financial assistance to the various Governments agencies, including Public Sector Units and its registered exporters of agriculture products to create common infrastructure facilities and other infrastructure facilities respectively in the country. Under the plan scheme for development of infrastructure, APEDA have created the following infrastructure facilities in public sector :

i. Setting up of Centers for Perishable Cargo (CPCs) at various international airports viz., Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Amritsar, Cochin, Hyderabad, Bagdogra, Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram, Goa, Calicut and Nashik ii. Setting up of pre-shipment facilities for export of fresh horticulture produce such as irradiation facility at Vashi, Maharashtra and Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Vapour Heat Treatment (VHT) facilities have also been set up at Nuzvid and Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh, Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh and Vashi in Maharashtra iii. Integrated pack house facilities with pre-cooling facilities like high humidity cold storage, Controlled Atmosphere (CA) in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, etc. iv. Potato processing units in West Bengal & Gujarat. v. Aseptic packaging unit for mango pulp in Andhra Pradesh

In addition, the exporters are also assisted through the scheme of Infrastructure Development for purchase of reefer van, setting up of integrated pack houses, pre cooling facilities, high humidity cold store etc., so as to maintain cool chain which helps in maintaining the quality of produce exported from India.

(c & d) No specific research/study has been conducted by the Department of Commerce to improve the export share of agricultural products. However, prior to the formulation of plan schemes of APEDA in the XII Five Year Plan (FYP), APEDA had evaluated its plan schemes in XI FYP through M/s Price Water House Coopers (PWC), a consultant. Thus the plan scheme of APEDA were formulated as per the recommendation of the evaluation report. The Government has approved these plan schemes for implementation in the XII FYP period with an outlay of Rs.1100 Crore for following components:

(i) Scheme for Infrastructure Development (ii) Scheme for Quality Development (iii) Scheme for Market Development (iv) Scheme for Transport Assistance