

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1664

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS EXPORT POLICY

Das Shri Ram Sundar;Jawale Shri Haribhau Madhav;Karwariya Shri Kapil Muni

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a new policy for the export of agricultural products such as cotton, sugar, etc. and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether communication gap between different Ministries is influencing the decision for export of cotton and sugar and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is heavy surplus stock of food, fruits, etc. are available with the State Government and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to permit the State Governments to export the surplus products available with them directly to foreign countries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

- (a) The export policy on 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 reviews the situation of availability of agricultural products in the country from time to time and takes a decision in view of the above factors .
- (b) All major policy decisions involving more than one department/ ministry are taken by the Government at appropriate level like Cabinet, CCEA, EGOM etc. after inter-ministerial consultations.
- (c) Government maintains stock of food grains in Central Pool for Public Distribution System(PDS). As per the latest information, as on 1.11.2013, a total stock of 168.54 lakh MT of rice and 340.99 lakh MT of wheat was available in the Central Pool. This stock includes the 28.72 lakh MT of rice and 203.69 lakh MT of wheat lying with state agencies. The buffer norms for wheat and rice including strategic reserve on 1st October was 72 lakh MT and 140 lakh MT respectively. The Government does not maintain stock of fruits centrally.
- (d-e) The export of most of the agricultural products including all types of fruits, cereals, are allowed under Open General License(OGL). Any individual/PSU/procurement agency/ State Government agencies can export the above commodities under OGL on commercial basis.