

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3979
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2015
EXPORT IMPORT OF RICE
Misra Shri Ajay (Teni)

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

- (a) the policy regarding export of rice from the country;
- (b) the quantum and value of different varieties of rice including Basmati rice exported and imported during each of the last three years and the current year, country and variety-wise;
- (c) whether the Government exports or proposes to formulate any policy to export coarse paddy also and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is a downfall in export of rice, particularly Basmati rice during the current year in comparison to last year and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost export of rice, particularly Basmati rice and to check its price in the domestic market?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

- (a) As per foreign trade policy, export of rice is free from privately held stocks.
- (b) The details of export of Basmati and non-Basmati rice and import of non-Basmati rice during the last three years and current year (April-December) are given at Annexure I. Variety-wise data is not maintained.
- (c) Export policy for rice in husk (paddy or rough), ITC(HS) code 100610 is also free from privately held stocks.
- (d) As per data available from DGCI&S for the export during April-December 2014-15, overall export of rice is of the order of 8.44 million MT (Value Rs.35,157.38 crore) as compared to 7.95 million MT (Value Rs.33,647.45 crore) during the same period in the last year. This shows an increase of 6.10% in quantity and 4.48% in value terms.

Export of Basmati rice, during April-December 2014-15 has been 2.57 million MT (Value Rs. 20,464.17 crore) as compared to 2.74 million MT (value Rs.20,641.22 crore) during the same period in the last year, showing a decrease of 6.19% in quantity and 0.86% in value terms.

Iran is the largest importer of Basmati rice from India. During current year Iran had significant carryover stocks from domestic production and heavy imports in past two years and hence has imposed a restriction on issue of import permits from October 2014. Export to Iran during April-December has therefore declined to 705.52 thousand MT as against 1,185.71 thousand MT during the same period in last year. However, in markets other than Iran there is a growth of about 20% in export of Basmati rice.

(e) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce, Govt of India has been inter-alia, mandated to develop and promote the export of basmati rice. Govt. has also mandated APEDA to protect the Intellectual Property vested in basmati rice on behalf of all stake holders. APEDA has taken following initiatives:

(i) A world wide watch agency has been appointed since 1996 to monitor the trade mark registers worldwide for any third party attempt for registration of the name basmati or any deceptive variations thereof.

(ii) APEDA had applied to GI Registry in Chennai in November 2008 for registration of Basmati Rice as a GI.

(iii) APEDA has established Basmati Export Development Foundation (BEDF). Under BEDF, state-of-art laboratory has been set up in the premises of S.V.B.P. University of Agriculture & Technology, Modipuram, U.P. for quality testing and DNA profiling of Basmati Rice.

(iv) Besides the laboratory, a Demonstration and Training Farm has been set up under BEDF over an area of about 10 acres for training the farmers in Good Practices for cultivation of Basmati Rice and Seed Production.

Domestic prices of any agriculture commodity including basmati rice, inter-alia, are a function of several factors like domestic and international demand and supply, cost of production like labour, capital, input cost etc., prevailing domestic and international food inflation etc.