

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3987

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2015

EXIM POLICY FOR AGRICULTURAL FOOD PRODUCTS

Nimmala Shri Kristappa;Yeddyurappa Shri B. S.

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

- (a) the criteria followed/adopted by the Government for imposing/lifting of ban on Export and Import of various agricultural/food products from time to time;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any study to ascertain the adverse impact of such imposing/ lifting of ban on farmers/consumers during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to formulate a long term consistent and predictable EXIM policy for agricultural/food products; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken by the Government to protect the interests of farmers/consumers from such adverse impact?

Answer

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

- (a) The policy decisions on export and import of agricultural/food products, including decisions on imposing/ lifting of ban on export and import, are based on several factors such as availability/non-availability of surplus over and above the requirement of buffer stock including strategic reserve, concerns of food security, international and domestic demand and supply situation, quality concerns, sanitary & phytosanitary requirements, need to balance between remunerative prices to the growers and availability of agricultural products to common man at affordable prices etc.
- (b) & (c) No specific study has been conducted to ascertain the adverse impact of such imposing/lifting of bans on farmers/consumers in the recent past.
- (d) & (e) The Government is in favour of long-term, consistent and predictable trade policy for agricultural/ food products. Among the major agricultural/food products, restrictions have been imposed only on the export of edible oils and pulses and that too on account of severe demand-supply mismatch. There is no outright ban on import of any of the major agricultural/food products. All policy decisions on import and export of agricultural/ food products are taken after considering interests of all stakeholders including farmers and consumers.