

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:819

ANSWERED ON:24.07.2015

Export/Import of Rice

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

- a) 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;
- b) whether there is a downfall in export of rice, particularly Basmati rice during the said period, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- c) whether some countries including Iran have imposed prohibition/restriction on import of Basmati rice from India, causing downfall in its export during the said period;
- d) if so, the details and the present status thereof along with the corrective measures taken by the Government to get the said ban lifted; and
- e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost export of rice, particularly Basmati rice from the country?

Answer

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

(a) The details of quantum and value of basmati and non-basmati rice exported and imported during last three years and the current year is as under:

EXPORT OF RICE

Quantity in Ton; Value in USD Million

COMMODITY 2012-13 2013-14 2014-15 2015-16(Apr-May)

Quantity Value Quantity Value Quantity Value Quantity Value

RICE -BASMATI 3459829 3564.04 3754102 4864.89 3702293 4518.11 780090 734.43

RICE(OTHER THAN BASMATI) 6687851 2651.97 7136191 2925.16 8275051 3335.09 1048495 392.41

Source: DGCI&S

IMPORT OF RICE

Quantity in Ton; Value in USD Million

COMMODITY 2012-13 2013-14 2014-15 2015-16(Apr-May)

Quantity Value Quantity Value Quantity Value Quantity Value

RICE(OTHER THAN BASMATI) 716 0.73 1439 1.37 1958 1.77 164 0.13

Source: DGCI&S

Country-wise export/import data of Basmati and Non-basmati rice is at Annexure –I. Variety wise export data is not maintained by DGCI&S.

(b) Export of Basmati rice during 2014-15 has come down by 7% from USD 4864.89 million (in year 2013-14) to USD 4518.12 million. The drop in export is due to lower unit value realization in last few months of the year.

(c) Iran, one of the major importers of Basmati rice from India undertook measures to restrict import of rice from all origins due to high carryover stocks from imports in the previous year and increase in their domestic production. In October 2014, import duty was increased and a restriction was imposed on issuance of new permits for import of rice, by Government of Iran. However, these measures are not India specific and apply to imports of rice from all origins.

(d) The Department of Commerce through Embassy of India at Tehran is regularly following up with the Government of Iran on this issue. However, the export of Basmati rice to Iran continues against the permits held by importers issued earlier by Government of Iran.

(e) APEDA participates in a number of international trade fairs every year to promote the export of agro products including rice. Financial Assistance is extended to registered member exporters for development of market, quality and infrastructure under the agriculture export plan scheme of APEDA. Registration for Basmati rice as a GI product is pursued with the GI registry to help protection of intellectual property vested in Basmati rice. Basmati Export Development Foundation (BEDF) has been founded and registered as a society to strengthen the quality in supply chain through quality assurance and increasing awareness amongst farmers for quality production.
