

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:354

ANSWERED ON:11.07.2014

EXPORT IMPORT TRADE IN VIRGINIA TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to help tobacco farmers by encouraging the two way export-import trade in Virginia tobacco products and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the total quantum and value of cigarettes exported to various countries during each of the last three years and the current year, country-wise;
- (c) whether any study has been done to help farmers for providing them access for export of Virginia tobacco products to all other countries;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to increase unrestricted access to Indian Virginia tobacco products to other countries?

Answer

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

(a) The government is encouraging the trade in Virginia tobacco products through the Tobacco Board, an autonomous body under Department of Commerce. Tobacco Board regulate the FCV tobacco crops keeping in view the global stocks, exports, imports, market potential, production and farm prices in international market. Tobacco Board educates the farmers/ exporters regarding the current international trend in FCV tobacco market. Tobacco Board participates in the tobacco exhibitions abroad, assists exporters in participation in overseas trade exhibitions, sponsors trade delegations to go on trade visit in important markets and invites tobacco trade delegations from importing countries. Beside this, exporters are also eligible for Agri Infrastructure Incentive Scrip equivalent to the 10% of FOB value subject to a ceiling of Rs. 100 crore per annum .

(b) The data relating cigarettes exports during last 3 years are as under:-

| Particulars | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | # |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---|
| Quantity in '000' | 9444 | 10742 | 10011 | 1960 | |
| Value in Rs. Crore | 335.11 | 438.94 | 513.20 | 96.12 | |

(Source: Tobacco Board) April-May, 2014

Exports of cigarettes to major importing countries

| Name | Qty in '000' | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 |
|------------|--------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Saudi Arab | 326.84 | 308.36 | 1,111.77 | |
| USA | 227.41 | 260.63 | 379.14 | |
| UAE | 106.84 | 198.48 | 315.95 | |
| Kuwait | 133.67 | 74.73 | 270.85 | |
| Belize | 291.89 | 249.47 | 213.13 | |
| Qatar | 142.72 | 176.70 | 211.81 | |

(c) Department of Commerce has not done such study in recent past.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There is no restriction on export of Indian Virginia Tobacco to other countries.