

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:395

ANSWERED ON:11.07.2014

BAN ON IMPORT OF FRUITS BY EUROPEON UNION

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

- (a) whether the European Union (EU) has imposed ban on import of Indian Mangoes including the famed Alphonso;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the quantum of foreign exchange loss to the country thereby;
- (d) whether the Government has taken up the matter with the EU in this regard and if so, the response from EU thereto; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to protect the interest of mango growers of the country?

Answer

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

(a & b)Yes, Madam. The European Union (EU) has prohibited import from India of five (5) fruits and vegetables which include mango, effective from 01st May, 2014 on account of interceptions of export consignments not compliant with EU Phytosanitary regulations.

(c to e)The export of fresh mangoes to the EU during the last three years has been as follows:

Quantity in MT, Value in Rs. lakh					
2011-12		2012-13		2013-14	
Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
3061	1911	3890	3559	3933	5022

The Government of India has taken several measures including enhancement of capacity and numbers of inspecting staff and improvement in infrastructure, implementation of a Standard Operating Procedure to guarantee safe exports and routing of all export consignments of perishables to EU through approved pack houses from 01.04.2014 to enable better inspection and certification.

India has not only informed the EU regarding implementation of these control systems but have also formally conveyed our disagreement on the temporary restriction imposed by the EU.

In the light of concerted efforts on India's part, Food and Veterinary office of European Commission has agreed to send an audit team in September, 2014 to verify improvement in plant health controls and certification system with regard to fruits and vegetables.