

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:939  
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2014  
CURBS ON ONION TRADE  
Reddy Shri J.C. Divakar

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

(a) whether the Government has imposed certain restrictions/curbs on onion trade, thus causing difficulty to the farmers in selling, transportation and exporting them; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken to remove such curbs to protect the interests of those engaged in cultivating/producing onions in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a & b) There is an Inter-Ministerial Committee which takes stock of the arrival of onion and modal prices prevailing in the important production and consumption centres. The Committee takes appropriate decision to calibrate export through MEP on onion from time to time after considering various factors like availability of onion in domestic market, remunerative prices to the growers and availability of agricultural products to common man at affordable prices.

The Government had imposed a Minimum Export Price (MEP) of USD 300 per MT on 17th June, 2014 on export of onions in view of the inordinately high domestic prices and anticipated shortage of onions in domestic markets with a view to safeguard the interests of domestic consumers from soaring prices. This MEP has further raised to USD 500 PMT on 2nd July, 2014 and later brought down to USD 300 PMT w.e.f. 21st August, 2014.