

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1233
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2014
BAN ON EXPORT OF FRUITS VEGETABLES
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

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

- (a) whether the Government has imposed/proposes to impose any restriction/ban on the export of fruits and vegetables in view of their scarcity and rising prices in the domestic market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof item-wise along with the criteria being adopted by the Government in this regard;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor along with the corrective measures being taken by the Government to ensure their adequate supply in the domestic market;
- (d) whether there has been any fluctuation in the quantum of soya meal and corn exported from the country during the last three years; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the measures taken by the Government to boost its export?

Answer

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

(a to c) There is no proposal under the consideration of the Department of Commerce to impose a ban on the export of fruits and vegetables. However, keeping in view the rising prices of the potatoes and onions in the domestic markets, the Government of India, in order to control the domestic prices, has decided to fix Minimum Export Price (MEP) on these two products. In respect of Onion the Government had notified an MEP of USD 300 PMT (F.O.B.) on 17th June, 2014 which was enhanced to USD 500 PMT (F.O.B.) on 02nd July, 2014. Similarly, in respect of Potatoes, the Government has notified an MEP of USD 450 PMT (F.O.B.) on 26th June, 2014 in order to augment the domestic supply.

(d & e) The details regarding export figures of soyameal and corn during the last three years are as under:

| HS code | Commodity | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 |
|----------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 10059000 | Other Maize (Corn) | 38,37,593.31 | 47,75,944.13 | 39,29,982.38 |
| 23040030 | Meal Soyabean, Solvent Extracted (Defatted) Variety | 42,12,636.35 | 40,36,772.04 | 35,52,736.14 |

Export of both corn and soyabean meal have shown a downward trend during 2013-14. The export of agricultural products depends on various factors including availability of surplus over and above the requirement of buffer stock including strategic reserve, if any, concerns of food security, diplomatic/humanitarian considerations, international demand and supply situation, quality standards in the importing countries, varieties traded and price competitiveness, need to balance between remunerative prices to the growers and availability of agricultural products to common man at affordable prices.