

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5043
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2014
GRADING METHODS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE
S.R. Shri Vijay Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the name of the agricultural products approved so far by the core group on harmonized fruits and vegetables; and
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to improve the grading methods for agricultural products for export purposes?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a): Department of Commerce vide Office Memorandum dated 09.09.2002 constituted a Standing Committee on fresh fruits and vegetables for export standards under the chairmanship of Chairman, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). Representative of Directorate of Marketing & Inspection (DMI) is a member in the Standing Committee. The grade standards of fruits and vegetables approved by the Standing Committee have been notified in the Fruits and Vegetables Grading and Marking Rules, 2004. The names of fruits and vegetables approved so far by the Standing Committee are furnished in Annexure- I.

(b):European Commission has approved the conformity checking operations of DMI for pre shipment inspection for export of fresh Fruits and Vegetables to European Union (EU) countries. Agricultural Marketing Adviser has been notified as Official Authority and DMI as inspection body for the purpose. Inspection and certification is voluntary as per the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Public Notice No. 28 (RE 2002)/ 2002-2007 dated 2nd August, 2002. The grading and marking of fresh fruits and vegetables is carried out by the holders of Certificate of Authorisation for export under Agmark at the pack houses approved by the APEDA. The hygiene and the other requirements are at Annexure-II

The grading and marking of agricultural products for export is undertaken by the duly approved chemists of National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited laboratories approved by the Directorate of Marketing & Inspection.

Adequately qualified and experienced persons of approved NABL laboratories authorised by DMI are authorised to issue Certificate of Agmark Grading (CAG) for export.