

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 648
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20th NOVEMBER, 2019

EXPORT-IMPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

648. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has followed/adopted any criterion for imposing/lifting ban on export/import of various agricultural products from time to time;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any study to ascertain the adverse impact on farmers/consumers of such imposing/lifting ban on export/import of agricultural products during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to formulate a long term consistent and predictable export-import policy of agricultural products;
- (e) if so, the salient features of such a policy; and
- (f) the corrective steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of farmers/consumers from the adverse impact of imposing/lifting ban on export/import of various agricultural products?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)
THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (c) The export and import policies for agricultural products, which include the decisions on lifting/imposing bans on export/import of individual agricultural products, are framed keeping several factors in mind, such as availability of surplus over the domestic requirements (including the requirement of buffer stock and strategic reserve, if any), concerns of food security, diplomatic/humanitarian considerations, international demand and supply situation, price competitiveness, need to balance between remunerative prices to the growers and availability of agricultural products to common man at affordable prices etc. During the last three years, no bans

have been imposed on export/import of any of the major agricultural products except for the ban on export of onions, which has been imposed only recently w.e.f. 29th September, 2019. As such, no study has been conducted in this regard.

(d) to (f) The Agriculture Export Policy, brought out by the Government in December 2018, aims at a stable trade policy for agricultural products, involving following steps:

- i) The processed agricultural products and all kinds of organic products will not be brought under the ambit of any kind of export restriction (viz. Minimum Export Price, Export duty, Export bans, Export quota, Export capping, Export permit etc.) even though the primary agricultural product or non-organic agricultural product is brought under some kind of export restrictions.
- ii) Identification of commodities which are essential for food security in consultation with the relevant stakeholders and Ministries. Any export restriction on such identified commodities under extreme price situation will be based on decision of a high level committee. Also, any kind of export prohibitions and restrictions on the identified commodities above would be taken up in a WTO compatible manner.

Consequent to the approval of policy, mandate of the Committee of Secretaries on 'Essential commodities' has been expanded to provide recommendation on export restrictions on a few commodities, which are essential for food security, under extreme price situation only.
