

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *150
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2023

EXPORT OF CROPS AND FRUITS

***150. SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE:**
SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:

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

- (a) the details of crops and fruits exported by our country including the details of the countries to which the said produces are exported;
- (b) the year-wise volume of the exports during the last five years;
- (c) whether many countries have heavily increased their import duties and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the volume of orange exports of the country during the last five years;
- (e) whether Bangladesh has heavily increased the import duty on Nagpuri Oranges and if so, the reasons therefor including the details thereof;
- (f) whether the said increase has caused reduction in orange export as well as other export products by half of its volume and fall in prices in domestic markets also and if so, the details of the States and crops adversely affected by the said incident;
- (g) whether the Government has carried out any review of the said incident and if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) the supportive measures and initiatives taken by the Government to protect orange farmers as well as other farmers and traders from export loss?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (h): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred question No. 150 for 13.12.2023 regarding “Export of Crops and Fruits” by Shri Krupal Balaji Tumane and Shri Gajanan Kirtikar:

(a) Out of India’s agriculture export basket comprising of primary as well as value-added products, the crops, which account for substantial share of India’s agriculture exports, are non-Basmati rice, Basmati rice, spices, fresh fruits and fresh vegetables etc. Major fruits exported from the country are grapes, banana, pomegranate, mango, apples, orange etc. Major export destinations for these products are Bangladesh, China, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iran, USA etc.

(b) Details of volume of exports of major crops, during the last five years, are at Annexure-I. Details of volume of export of fruits, during the same period, are at Annexure-II.

(c) Importing countries change import duty rates for various products, which is their sovereign right, from time to time, based on several factors such as nature of the product, domestic demand, domestic financial situation, foreign currency reserves etc. However, member countries of World Trade Organisation (WTO) are obligated to keep the import duty rates within the bound tariff rates agreed to by them

(d) The details regarding volume of orange exports of the country, during the last five years, are as under:

				Qty. in MT
2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
43098.28	93749.41	162540.10	119548.04	73157.88
Source: DGCI&S				

(e) Before the 2021-22 Bangladesh budget, the total tax incidence (TTI) for oranges was 89.32%. With a 20% SAFTA rebate, effective duty was 69.32%. The 2021-22 budget introduced a 20% regulatory duty on oranges, increasing TTI to 113.8%, resulting in effective duty rate of 93.8%.

(f) to (h) The said increase in import duty rates by Bangladesh has affected India’s export of oranges, as indicated in the details provided at (d) above, as Bangladesh is a major export destination for Indian oranges. However, as the volume of export of oranges is less than 2% of total production, impact on domestic prices due to lower exports is unlikely. However, overall agriculture exports of the country registered a growth in 2022-23 and as such, there was no impact in respect of export of other agriculture products.

The matter has been consistently pursued through the Indian mission in Dhaka and was taken up in the bilateral meetings between India and Bangladesh viz. the 14th Joint Working Group on Customs meeting held on 21-22 August 2023 and 15th Joint Working Group on Trade meeting held on 26-27 September 2023, between India and Bangladesh. The Indian side requested Bangladesh side to revisit their policy in the interest of the orange farmers in India and reduce the duties to pre-2021-22 budget level. During the 15th Joint Working Group on Trade, Bangladesh side responded that regulatory duty is applied on this item on Most Favoured Nation (MFN) basis, i.e. it is applicable for imports from all countries without discrimination.

The Government has been providing support for holistic growth of horticulture sector, including oranges. The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has been implementing Mission for integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, w.e.f. 2014-15, for holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo. All States and UTs are covered under MIDH.

The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), a statutory body under the administrative control of Department of Commerce, has the mandate to promote export of oranges. APEDA has launched a comprehensive pack house recognition scheme for export of fruits and vegetables, including oranges, with the objective to preserve the quality of the produce. APEDA has registered 214 pack houses for processing of fresh fruits and vegetables, including oranges.

Further, APEDA provides financial assistance to exporters of its scheduled products, including of oranges, under various components of its export promotion scheme viz. Market Development, Infrastructure Development and Quality Development. APEDA also assists exporters in promoting exports by organising buyer-seller meets (BSMs); participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions; taking up the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS), Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Market Access issues with the importing countries; and regular interactions with the Indian Missions to tap export opportunities in various countries.

Annexure refer to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Starred question No. 150 for answer on 13.12.2023.

Annexure-I

<u>INDIA'S EXPORTS OF CROPS</u>					
Qty. in '000 MT					
DESCRIPTION	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
RICE OTHER THAN BASMATI)	7648.00	5056.28	13149.21	17288.96	17792.14
RICE -BASMATI	4414.61	4454.77	4630.21	3943.72	4561.21
SPICES	1133.89	1193.44	1607.06	1427.72	1312.26
WHEAT	226.63	219.69	2154.97	7244.84	4695.80
OTHER CEREALS	1257.24	501.12	3075.66	3859.36	3628.12
FRESH VEGETABLES	3192.49	1930.51	2339.68	2468.40	3383.59
FRESH FRUITS (INCLUDING NUTS)	823.09	834.84	973.18	1166.44	1096.09
GROUNDNUT	489.19	664.44	638.32	514.12	669.51
COTTON RAW INCLD. WASTE	1143.07	657.81	1213.98	1258.63	318.47
PULSES	287.13	232.08	276.93	387.21	762.67
SESAME SEEDS	312.00	282.26	273.26	242.15	228.65
OTHER OIL SEEDS	213.84	89.64	84.57	60.24	58.23
NIGER SEEDS	13.37	13.83	19.59	6.03	7.74

Source: DGCI&S

Annexure refer to reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Starred question No. 150 for answer on 13.12.2023.

Annexure-II

INDIA'S EXPORTS OF FRESH FRUITS						
						Qty in MT
HSCode	Product	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
8061000	Grapes, Fresh	246133.77	193690.51	246107.37	263075.62	267950.39
8039010	Bananas, Fresh	134503.4	195745.85	232518.22	376572.37	361841.61
8109010	Pomegranates Fresh	67891.8	80547.74	67976.66	99043.09	62280.08
8045029	Other Mangoes	0	0	15795.09	17448.9	17257.28
8081000	Apples, Fresh	16744.61	21182.09	30606.82	31976.52	52875.88
8051000	Oranges, Fresh/Dried	43098.28	93749.41	162540.1	119548.04	73157.88
8045090	Other Mangosteen Fresh / Dried	2892.87	4505.88	7544.14	18229.47	15908.67
8071100	Watermelons, Fresh	33366.46	33750.57	31739.02	32694.52	44999.78
8109090	Other Fresh Fruits	15203.39	10690.18	9894.39	13629.93	10350.55
8045021	Alphonso (Hapus)	0	0	3195.85	5994.86	2829.76
8055000	Lemons	21121.33	14485.92	18788.84	18523.9	11341.23
8045026	Kesar	0	0	983.73	2319.08	1749.97
8043000	Pineapples Fresh Or Dried	6942.12	6682.93	4545.32	7665.42	6961.85
8045010	Guavas Fresh/Dried	956.69	1697.14	2886.37	5339.21	5680.92
8072000	Papaws (Papayas), Fresh/Dried	9785.61	8273.36	7618.72	7754.73	9440.71
8071910	Musk Melons	0	0	4609.63	4215.76	3934.42
8109020	Tamarind, Fresh	3328.82	2293.89	2897.87	4920.12	2793.59
8045022	Banganapalli	0	0	830.55	1674.04	856.91
8109030	Sapota (Chico) Fresh	1423.6	1133.78	657.5	1023.33	972.96
8041010	Dates, Fresh/Dried (Excluding Wet Dates)	78.42	460.99	677.44	1320.87	1916.62
	Other Fruits	61386.54	71036.61	24340.23	19009.83	10104.81
	Total	664857.7	739926.9	876753.9	1051980	965205.9
Source: DGCI&S						

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1612
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2023

TRADE ISSUES WITH GULF COUNTRIES

1612. DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY:

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

- (a) whether India has started to experience trade-related issues with the Gulf countries due to the Syrian crisis;
- (b) if so, the details on the issues and its impact on the imports;
- (c) whether Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member nations have increased investment inflow from India in the last financial year; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) & (b) India maintains robust trade relations with the Gulf countries. During the last three years, India's trade with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries has witnessed increasing trend.

(c) & (d) Foreign Exchange Department (FED) of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) maintains the data of Overseas Direct Investment (ODI) from India. Value of the Indian investments in GCC member countries since April 2000 to November 2023, subject to change on account of the online reporting made by the Authorized Dealer (AD) banks, is given in the table below:

Sl. No.	Country Name	ODI (in US\$ Million)
1	United Arab Emirates	13,877
2	Bahrain	210
3	Saudi Arabia	390
4	Oman	544
5	Qatar	152
6	Kuwait	10

Source: RBI

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
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LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1617
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2023

SEAFOOD EXPORTS

1617. SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT:

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

- (a) whether there was an adoption of a new strategy to boost seafood exports, especially in the light of the global pandemic; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) & (b): Yes, The Government through Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), a statutory organisation under administrative control of Department of Commerce has undertaken various measures for export promotion of marine products from the country, especially in the light of the global pandemic. These measures inter-alia include participation in International trade fairs, organising Buyer-Seller Meets (BSMs) both in virtual & physical mode, Reverse Buyer Seller Meets (RBSMs) and providing financial support for processing and exporting seafood based value-added products. In order to tap export potential in new markets, MPEDA has also carried out product & country specific profiling for various seafood products. With a view to promote Ease of Doing Business for the seafood exporters, MPEDA has completely digitized the process of issuing export facilitation certificates and rationalized various regulatory compliances.

Further, MPEDA has established a Nucleus Breeding Centre for the Specific Pathogen-Free (SPF) Tiger Shrimp breeding project in Andaman Island which is expected to make India self-reliant and boost shrimp production as well as its exports. In order to make Indian seafood based value added products competitive in international markets, the Government, in the Budget 2023-24 has also announced reduction

of import duty on various aquaculture inputs such as reduction of import duty from 30% to 15% on Fish lipid Oil (HS 1504 20) & Algal prime (flour) (HS 2102 2000) and from 15% to 5% on Fish meal (HS 2301 20), Krill meal (HS 2301 20) & Mineral and Vitamin Premixes (HS 2309 90 90). The Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) rates have also been increased from 2.5% to 3.1% for various seafood products and maximum value cap per kg has been increased to Rs. 69.00.

MPEDA also conducts a number of training programs such as Harbour & Pre-processing centre-based training for fisherfolks on good handling practices, reduction of post-harvest losses, quality and standards related requirements of importing countries, training on value addition in seafood exports and training on Hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) for quality control technologists etc.

As a result of these efforts, the seafood exports from India has increased from USD 5957.37 million in 2020-21 to USD 8073.03 million in 2022-23 registering a growth of 35.51%.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1618
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2023

EXPORT OF MANGOES

1618. SHRI N. REDDEPPA:

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

- (a) the details and the number of Bangapalli and Suvarnarekha exported annually post GI certification;
- (b) the details of plans made by the Government to increase export of the above said mangoes; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

- (a) As there is no separate HS Code for Suvarnarekha mangoes, exclusive export data for this variety is not available. Export details for Bangapalli mangoes, for the last three years and the current year, are as under:

Year	Qty. (MT)	Val (USD Million)
2020-21	830.55	1.46
2021-22	1674.03	3.01
2022-23	856.91	2.00
2023-24 (Apr.-Sep.)	899.67	2.81
Source: DGCI&S		

- (b) & (c) The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), a statutory body under the administrative control of Department of Commerce, has the mandate to promote export of mangoes, including Bangapalli and Suvarnarekha varieties. In order to promote export, APEDA, in association with Indian Institute of Packaging has developed packaging

standards and specifications for potential fruits and vegetables including mangoes. APEDA has also launched a comprehensive pack house recognition scheme for export of fruits and vegetables including mangoes with the objective to preserve the quality of produce. APEDA has registered 214 pack houses for processing of fresh fruits and vegetables, including mangoes, for export to identified markets. APEDA, in collaboration with National Plant Protection Office (NPPO) and Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) has facilitated development of sea protocol to reduce the logistics cost for export of mangoes.

Further, APEDA provides financial assistance to exporters of its scheduled products, including of Mango, under various components of its export promotion scheme viz. Market Development, Infrastructure Development and Quality Development. APEDA also assists exporters in promoting exports by organising buyer-seller meets (BSMs); participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions; taking up the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS), Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Market Access issues with the importing countries; and regular interactions with the Indian Missions to tap export opportunities in various countries.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1638
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2023

EXPORT OF BANANA

1638. SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRIMATI MANJULATA MANDAL:
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:
DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S.:
DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:
SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:

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

- (a) whether the Union Government is giving assistance to State Government to boost the export of banana and if so, the details thereof, State-wise particularly Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Maharashtra;
- (b) the quantum of banana exported during each of the last three years and the current year along with foreign exchange earned from such export;
- (c) the challenges faced by the Government while boosting the export of banana from the country;
- (d) whether APEDA has taken any measures to boost the export of banana from the country which is produced in abundance in Tamil Nadu;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether any financial assistance is being provided to the growers and exporters for the export of banana and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) Yes, The Government is taking measures to promote exports of banana from the country, including from the states of Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Maharashtra. The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), a statutory body under the administrative control of Department of Commerce, has the mandate to promote export of bananas. An Export Promotion Forum (EPF) for bananas, with representation from trade/industry, line ministries/departments, regulatory agencies, research institutes, state governments etc., has been established under the aegis of APEDA. The EPF strives to identify and anticipate developments pertaining to production and exports of bananas, reach out to stakeholders across the entire production/ supply chain of exports and make

recommendations for necessary policy interventions and other measures to promote exports. APEDA has also identified production clusters for banana in various States and have promoted controlled field management practices and use of movable post-harvest equipment such as pre-coolers; ripening chambers and ethylene dip tanks in these clusters. APEDA has also facilitated bulk movement of bananas through refrigerated train from East Coast to West Coast port for onward transportation to West Asian countries. APEDA has also initiated development of sea protocol for facilitating exports to European countries.

(b) The details of India's exports of banana, during each of the last three years and the current year, are as under:

Year	Quantity (MT)	Value (in USD Mill)
2020-21	232518.22	99.86
2021-22	376572.37	157.86
2022-23	361841.61	174.83
2023-24 (Apr-Sep)	236470.92	108.08

Source: DGCIS&S

(c) High perishability of the product and distance from markets like US and EU are the major challenges, other than huge domestic demand in the Country.

(d) to (e) Apart from the measures listed at (a) above, APEDA assists exporters in promoting exports by organising buyer-seller meets (BSMs); participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions; taking up the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS), Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Market Access issues with the importing countries; and regular interactions with the Indian Missions to tap export opportunities in various countries.

(f) APEDA provides financial assistance to exporters of its scheduled products, including of banana, under various components of its export promotion scheme viz. Market Development, Infrastructure Development and Quality Development.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1675
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2023

COOPERATION WITH ASEAN

1675. SHRI Y.S. AVINASH REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has worked out a 12-point proposal to expand cooperation between India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in areas such as connectivity, trade and digital transformation and also called for building a rules-based post-COVID world order, at the annual ASEAN-India Summit and if so, the details thereof/ progress made till now; and
- (b) whether the Government has also announced the establishment of a multimodal connectivity and economic corridor linking Southeast Asia, India, West Asia and Europe and offered to share New Delhi's digital public infrastructure stack with ASEAN partners and the proposal included the Government's call for a collective fight against terrorism, terror financing, and cyber-disinformation and for raising issues being faced by the Global South in multilateral fora and if so, the details thereof and progress made till now?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) & (b) Yes. The 20th ASEAN-India Summit was held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 7 September 2023. The following 12-point proposal for strengthening India- ASEAN co-operation covering connectivity, digital transformation, trade and economic engagement, addressing contemporary challenges, people-to-people contacts and deepening strategic engagement have been presented:

- i. Establishing multi-modal connectivity and economic corridor that links South East Asia-India-West Asia-Europe.
- ii. Offered to share India's Digital Public Infrastructure Stack with ASEAN partners.
- iii. Announced ASEAN-India fund for Digital Future focusing on cooperation in digital transformation and financial connectivity.
- iv. Announced renewal of support to Economic and Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) to act as knowledge partner for enhancing our engagement.
- v. Called for collectively raising issues being faced by Global South in multilateral fora.

- vi. Invited ASEAN countries to join Global Centre for Traditional Medicine being established by WHO in India.
- vii. Called for working together on Mission LiFE
- viii. Offered to share India's experience in providing affordable and quality medicines to people through Jan-Aushadhi Kendras.
- ix. Called for collective fight against terrorism, terror financing and cyber-disinformation.
- x. Invited ASEAN countries to join Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
- xi. Called for cooperation in disaster management.
- xii. Called for enhanced cooperation on maritime safety, security and domain awareness.

The 12-point proposal is monitored on a regular basis. Concerned Nodal Agencies involved are Ministry of External Affairs, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Ministry of AYUSH, Ministry Environment Forest & Climate Change, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Defence.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1692
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2023

AGRICULTURAL EXPORT POLICY, 2018

1692. MS. S. JOTHIMANI:

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

- (a) whether the Agricultural Export Policy, 2018 has been able to achieve its stated goals in view of declining agriculture exports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of the crops which dominate India's agricultural exports;
- (e) the impact on declining agricultural exports for the farmers of the country; and
- (f) the challenges that the ministry faces in increasing agricultural exports and the corrective steps taken for the same?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (e) Subsequent to introduction of the Agriculture Export Policy (AEP) in December 2018, agriculture exports have registered a substantial growth from USD 35.59 billion in 2019-20 to USD 53.13 billion in 2022-23. Progress made in realising various objectives of the AEP, such as diversifying export basket and destinations; promoting exports of novel, indigenous, organic, ethnic, traditional and non-traditional agri products; tackling market access, trade barriers, sanitary and phytosanitary issues; integration with global value chain; providing export market linkage to farmers etc., has contributed towards growth in agriculture exports.

Out of India's agriculture export basket comprising of primary as well as value-added products, the crops, which account for substantial share of India's agriculture exports, are non-Basmati rice, Basmati rice, spices, fresh fruits and fresh vegetables etc.

(f) The main challenges faced in exports of agriculture products are variance in production impacting consistency in availability of exportable surplus due to large domestic consumption base; price competitiveness; stringent quality requirements of the importing countries; market access issues etc.

The Department of Commerce provides financial assistance to promote exports, including exports of food products, through Market Access Initiatives (MAI) Scheme, and Export Promotion Schemes of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Tea Board, Coffee Board, Spices Board etc. Further, the Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), a statutory organisation under the administrative control of Department of Commerce, is engaged in promoting exports of food products. APEDA has been providing assistance to the exporters of food products under various components of its Export Promotion Scheme.

A Farmer Connect Portal has also been developed for providing a platform for farmers, Farmer-Producer Organizations (FPOs) and cooperatives to interact with exporters. Buyer Seller Meets (BSMs) are organized in the clusters to provide export-market linkages. Regular interactions, through video conferences, are held with the Indian Missions abroad, to assess and tap export opportunities. Country specific BSMs, through Indian Missions, are also organized. Continuous efforts are also made to resolve market access, trade barriers, sanitary and phytosanitary issues.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1714
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2023

DRAFT BILLS FOR TEA AND SPICES

1714. DR. PON GAUTHAM SIGAMANI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government held discussions with stakeholders to finalize draft bills for tea and spices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that the ongoing schemes shall continue with financial allocations for plantation commodities, however, the revised schemes are under consideration by the Government, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the schemes would address the issues faced by the sectors and give thrust to value addition of the commodities; and
- (e) if so the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (b): Yes, the draft 'Tea (Promotion and Development) Bill' and 'Spices (Promotion and Development) Bill' were placed in the public domain/website of the Department of Commerce and Boards for 3 months from 10.01.2022 to 09.04.2022 for seeking comments/suggestions from stakeholders including State Governments, associations, organizations and general public. Further, Inter-Ministerial Consultations have also been carried out for the above two draft bills.

(c) to (e): Plantation Commodity Boards viz. Tea Board, Coffee Board, Rubber Board and Spices Board are implementing schemes namely "Tea Development and Promotion Scheme", "Integrated Coffee Development Project", "Sustainable and inclusive development of Natural

Rubber Sector” and “Integrated Scheme for Export Promotion & Quality Improvement in Spices and Research & Development of Cardamom” respectively, which are currently ongoing.

The revised schemes, which are being proposed include, inter-alia, activities for improvement in production, productivity, quality upgradation, research, promotion of export, brand promotion etc through provisions of financial and technical assistance through the Boards to stakeholders of respective sectors. The proposed schemes also include specific programmes for value addition such as assistance for setting up of blending and packaging units for value addition of tea, support to coffee curing works & roasting and grinding units, technological and infrastructural interventions for processing of spices etc. The consultation process for finalising the proposed schemes has been completed.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1724
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2023

RODTEP SCHEME

1724. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:

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

- (a) the details of Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Products (RODTEP) scheme;
- (b) the rationale for replacing the existing Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) considering that India had already appealed against the finding of the WTO Panel in 2019 against MEIS;
- (c) whether it is true that the EU and the US have imposed countervailing duties (CVD) against India in response to the RODTEP scheme and if so, the reasons given by them to do so;
- (d) whether India has responded to their contentions and if so, the steps taken to settle this dispute amicably between the concerned parties;
- (e) the details of the products on which the CVDs have been imposed;
- (f) whether the EU and the United States have made any justification regarding the products on which the CVDs have been imposed and if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) whether India is willing to issue a formal dispute before the WTO if the issue isn't resolved bilaterally and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a): Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme has been implemented for exports w.e.f 01.01.2021 to refund, currently un-refunded taxes/ duties/ levies, which are not being refunded under any other mechanism, at the central, state and local level, but which are incurred in the process of manufacture and distribution of exported products. The details on RoDTEP scheme guidelines and rates are available at <https://www.dgft.gov.in>. The Scheme is being implemented by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Department of Revenue in an end to end IT environment.

(b): Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), which was operational for exports from 01.04.2015 to 31.12.2020, was a scheme to offset infrastructural inefficiencies and associated costs. RoDTEP Scheme, which is a duty remission scheme, is not a replacement scheme to MEIS and both the schemes operate on different principles and there is no correlation between the two schemes.

The US had challenged the MEIS at WTO in DS541. The appeal filed by India against the said Panel report stands withdrawn and the dispute stands terminated, following the notification of mutually agreed solution by India and the US.

(c) to (f): The products for which countervailing investigations have been conducted and a final determination of CVD has been made include Paper File Folders, Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet and Forged Steel Fluid End Blocks by United States of America (USA) and Certain graphite electrode systems by European Commission (EC). The Indian government and the affected exporters have strongly defended the subsidy allegation against various programs & schemes of the government, both at Central & State level, in their written and oral responses during the conduct of investigations.

While imposing CVD, it has been stated that there is a need for a reasonable and effective system to confirm inputs, consumption amount and imposed indirect taxes.

(g): Any party may approach the WTO Dispute Settlement mechanism, if a WTO member adopts any measure that are inconsistent with the agreements under the WTO.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1755
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2023

INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY AGREEMENTS

1755. SHRI THIRUMAVALAVAN THOL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has the details of International Commodity Agreements entered into during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether our country imports more or exports more through the International Commodity Agreements; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (d) During the last three years, India has entered into three Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) which also cover trade in commodities, namely (1) India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA), (2) India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), and (3) India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA). The trade balance of a country depends on a host of factors including respective economic growth patterns.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1775
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2023

EXPORTS/IMPORTS

1775. DR. K. JAYAKUMAR:

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

- (a) the year-wise exports and imports in physical quantity since 2014;
- (b) the item-wise details of exports and imports the share of which is about 10 percent of total annual exports and imports;
- (c) whether thrust areas of exports have been identified; and
- (d) if so, the efforts made to enhance exports in these areas?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a): The details of year-wise value of overall (Merchandise plus Services) exports and imports since 2013-14 are as below:

India's Overall Trade (Value in US\$ Billion)		
Years	Export	Import
2013-14	466.22	528.95
2014-15	468.45	529.61
2015-16	416.60	465.64
2016-17	440.05	480.21
2017-18	498.61	583.11
2018-19	538.08	640.09
2019-20	526.55	602.98
2020-21	497.90	511.96
2021-22	676.53	760.06
2022-23	776.40	898.01

Source: DGCI&S

Exported/Imported quantity of different items is in different units, hence is not additive.

(b): The details of Merchandise export of top 5 major commodities during last year is as follows:

Value in US\$ billion						
Sr. No:	Commodity	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (Apr-Oct)	% Share
1	Engineering Goods	76.7	112.2	107.0	61.6	23.7
2	Petroleum Products	25.8	67.5	97.5	47.9	21.6
3	Gems And Jewellery	26.0	39.1	38.0	18.6	8.4
4	Organic And Inorganic Chemicals	22.1	29.4	30.3	15.6	6.7
5	Drugs And Pharmaceuticals	24.4	24.6	25.4	15.8	5.6

Source: DGCI&S (Figures for 2023-24 are provisional)

The details of Merchandise import of top 5 major commodities during last year is as follows:

Value in US\$ billion						
Sr. No:	Commodity	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (Apr-Oct)	% Share
1	Petroleum, Crude And Products	82.7	161.8	209.4	98.7	29.2
2	Electronic Goods	54.3	73.7	77.3	51.3	10.8
3	Coal, Coke And Briquettes, Etc.	16.3	31.7	49.7	22.5	6.9
4	Machinery, Electrical And Non-Electrical	30.1	39.9	45.4	28.7	6.3
5	Gold	34.6	46.2	35.0	29.5	4.9

Source: DGCI&S (Figures for 2023-24 are provisional)

(c) & (d): Over the years, the focus on Indian exports has been on more value added and high technology products like engineering goods, electronic goods, processed food products, pharmaceutical products etc. Evaluation of performance of all export sectors and policy review is an ongoing exercise and steps are taken by the Government from time to time based on prevailing economic/trade scenario and competition position of India vis a vis the world. The Government has taken the following measures to enhance exports:

- (i) New Foreign Trade Policy has been launched on 31st March, 2023 and came in to effect from 1st April, 2023.
- (ii) Interest Equalization Scheme on pre and post shipment rupee export credit has also been extended upto 30.06.2024.
- (iii) Assistance provided through several schemes to promote exports, namely, Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) and Market Access Initiatives (MAI) Scheme.

- (iv) Rebate of State and Central Levies and Taxes (RoSCTL) Scheme to promote labour oriented sector export has been implemented since 07.03.2019.
- (v) Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme has been implemented since 01.01.2021. With effect from 15.12.2022, uncovered sectors like pharmaceuticals, organic and inorganic chemicals and article of iron and steel has been covered under RoDTEP. Similarly, anomalies in 432 tariff lines have been addressed and the corrected rates have been implemented with effect from 16.01.2023.
- (vi) Common Digital Platform for Certificate of Origin has been launched to facilitate trade and increase Free Trade Agreement (FTA) utilization by exporters.
- (vii) Districts as Export Hubs has been launched by identifying products with export potential in each district, addressing bottlenecks for exporting these products and supporting local exporters/manufacturers to generate employment in the district.
- (viii) Active role of Indian missions abroad towards promoting India's trade, tourism, technology and investment goals has been enhanced.
- (ix) Regular monitoring of export performance with Commercial Missions abroad, Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards/ Authorities and Industry Associations and taking corrective measures from time to time.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1778
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2023

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS

1778. PROF. SOUGATA RAY:
SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL:

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

- (a) whether the Merchandise Exports declined consecutively since the last several months;
- (b) if so, the details of Merchandise Exports from the country since the last one year, month-wise;
- (c) the reasons for the decline in Merchandise Exports;
- (d) the steps being taken to increase the Merchandise Exports;
- (e) the details of imports since the last one year, month-wise; and
- (f) the details of gap among export and import since the last one year, month-wise?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a)to (f): The details of the Merchandise exports, imports and the gap among export and import since last one year month-wise is as below:

Month	(Value in US\$ Billion)				
	Export		Import		Gap-2023
	2022	2023	2022	2023	
Jan	35.23	35.8	52.57	52.83	-17.03
Feb	37.15	37.01	55.9	53.58	-16.57
Mar	44.57	41.96	63.09	60.92	-18.96
Apr	39.7	34.65	58.06	49.06	-14.41
May	39	34.97	61.13	57.48	-22.51
Jun	42.28	34.35	64.35	53.47	-19.12
Jul	38.34	34.51	63.77	52.95	-18.44
Aug	37.02	38.42	61.88	60.42	-22
Sep	35.39	34.46	63.37	53.84	-19.37
Oct	31.6	33.54	57.91	63.45	-29.91

Source: DGCIS&S.

The reasons for decline in Merchandise Exports include high base of last year, persisting geopolitical tensions including Russia-Ukraine conflict, and monetary tightening along with recessionary fears that have led to a decline in consumer spending across advanced nations and the consequential slowdown in demands. The fall in commodity prices in Petroleum, Coal etc. have also contributed to this.

The Government has taken the following measures to increase the exports:

- (i) New Foreign Trade Policy has been launched on 31st March, 2023 and came in to effect from 1st April, 2023.
- (ii) Interest Equalization Scheme on pre and post shipment rupee export credit has also been extended upto 30.06.2024.
- (iii) Assistance provided through several schemes to promote exports, namely, Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) and Market Access Initiatives (MAI) Scheme.
- (iv) Rebate of State and Central Levies and Taxes (RoSCTL) Scheme to promote labour oriented sector export has been implemented since 07.03.2019.
- (v) Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme has been implemented since 01.01.2021. With effect from 15.12.2022, uncovered sectors like pharmaceuticals, organic and inorganic chemicals and article of iron and steel has been covered under RoDTEP. Similarly, anomalies in 432 tariff lines have been addressed and the corrected rates have been implemented with effect from 16.01.2023.
- (vi) Common Digital Platform for Certificate of Origin has been launched to facilitate trade and increase Free Trade Agreement (FTA) utilization by exporters.
- (vii) Districts as Export Hubs has been launched by identifying products with export potential in each district, addressing bottlenecks for exporting these products and supporting local exporters/manufacturers to generate employment in the district.
- (viii) Active role of Indian missions abroad towards promoting India's trade, tourism, technology and investment goals has been enhanced.
- (ix) Regular monitoring of export performance with Commercial Missions abroad, Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards/ Authorities and Industry Associations and taking corrective measures from time to time.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1796
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2023

EXPORT PROMOTION

1796. SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:

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

- (a) the details of the export promotion initiatives undertaken by the Government to boost exports;
- (b) the measures being taken by the Ministry to maximise the development of the large domestic market and extend its reach globally; and
- (c) the details of the specifics about the ongoing initiatives of the Government for e-commerce export promotion?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) & (b) The Government has taken the following measures to improve India's export of goods:

- (i) New Foreign Trade Policy has been launched on 31st March, 2023 and came into effect from 1st April, 2023.
- (ii) Interest Equalization Scheme on pre and post shipment rupee export credit has also been extended upto 30-06-2024 with additional allocation of Rs. 2500 crores.
- (iii) Assistance provided through several schemes to promote exports, namely, Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) and Market Access Initiatives (MAI) Scheme.
- (iv) Rebate of State and Central Levies and Taxes (RoSCTL) Scheme to promote labour oriented sector export has been implemented since 07.03.2019.
- (v) Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme has been implemented since 01.01.2021. With effect from 15.12.2022, uncovered sectors like pharmaceuticals, organic and inorganic chemicals and article of iron and steel has been covered under RoDTEP. Similarly, anomalies in 432 tariff lines have been addressed and the corrected rates have been implemented with effect from 16.01.2023.

- (vi) Common Digital Platform for Certificate of Origin has been launched to facilitate trade and increase Free Trade Agreement (FTA) utilization by exporters.
 - (vii) Districts as Export Hubs initiative has been launched by identifying products with export potential in each district, addressing bottlenecks for exporting these products and supporting local exporters/manufacturers to generate employment in the district.
 - (viii) Active role of Indian missions abroad towards promoting India's trade, tourism, technology and investment goals has been enhanced.
 - (ix) Regular monitoring of export performance with Commercial Missions abroad, Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards/ Authorities and Industry Associations and taking corrective measures from time to time.
- (c) A new Chapter has been introduced within the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), 2023 that aims to promote E-Commerce exports by bringing such exporters under the ambit of various export promotion schemes of the Government. In line with the special emphasis laid in the FTP 2023 on e-commerce exports, the outreach events are held in the districts under Districts as Export hubs initiative with focus on promoting e-commerce exports of the identified goods from the districts in collaboration with various stakeholders including the e-commerce platforms, various concerned central and state government departments such as the Department of Posts, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Banks, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Export Promotion Councils, Local Trade Associations/Chambers of Commerce, District Industries Centers, etc.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1803
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2023

SEZs

1803. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:

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

- (a) the areas earmarked under Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country, State-wise and the present status of the said areas;
- (b) whether the Government is working on a plan to identify and develop an area under special economic zone in Bihar keeping in view the backwardness of the State;
- (c) if so, the names of the places and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the revenue generated every year by the Government from such developed areas under this rule during the last five years, year-wise?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) There were 7 Central Government Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and 12 State/Private Sector SEZs prior to the enactment of the SEZ Act, 2005. Presently, 374 SEZs are notified in total, out of which 276 SEZs are operational. States/Union Territories-wise details of SEZs are at **Annexure**.

(b) & (c) SEZs being set up under the SEZ Act, 2005 and SEZ Rule, 2006 are primarily private investment driven. Post enactment of SEZ Act, 2005 the Central Government has not set up any SEZ in the country. Department of Commerce has received two proposals from M/s. Industrial Area Development Authority (BIADA), Department of Industries, Government of Bihar for setting up Multi-product SEZ at Industrial Area, Nawanagar, Buxar and Industrial Area, Kumarbagh, West Champaran. However, the proposals are incomplete in many aspects. The Government of Bihar has been requested to provide the complete proposal as per SEZ laws.

(d) The revenue received by the Government from SEZs during the last five years, year-wise is as below:

Year-wise revenue from duty for the Domestic Tariff Area Sale Transactions	
Year	Duty Amount Paid (Rs. Crores)
2018-19	24,504
2019-20	20,735
2020-21	26,056
2021-22	40,157
2022-23	41,962
2023-24 (upto 6 th December, 2023)	32,995

Annexure referred to in reply to Part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1803 for answer on 13th December, 2023

States/Union Territories-wise distribution of approved SEZs (as on 30.11.2023)		
States/UTs	Total Notified SEZs	Total Operational SEZs
Andhra Pradesh	30	25
Chandigarh	2	2
Chhattisgarh	1	1
Goa	3	0
Gujarat	24	21
Haryana	22	8
Jharkhand	2	1
Karnataka	52	36
Kerala	23	20
Madhya Pradesh	8	6
Maharashtra	44	38
Manipur	1	0
Nagaland	2	0
Odisha	5	5
Punjab	3	3
Rajasthan	6	3
Tamil Nadu	58	49
Telangana	56	37
Tripura	1	0
Uttar Pradesh	23	14
West Bengal	8	7
GRAND TOTAL	374	276

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1807
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2023

REVIEW OF EXPORT PRICES OF BASMATI RICE

1807. SHRI GHANSHYAM SINGH LODHI:

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

- (a) whether the export prices of Basmati Rice has gone under review;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has consulted with key stakeholders such as farmers, exporters, and industry experts while considering the revision of prices; and
- (d) if so, the details of such consultations and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) & (b) The Government had received credible field reports to the effect that non-basmati white rice, export of which has been prohibited with effect from 20th July 2023, was being exported under the HS code of Basmati rice. In order to control illegal exports of non-basmati rice, the Government, on 26th August 2023, issued directions to the Agriculture & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) to register contracts for Basmati exports only with the value of USD 1200 per MT and above. After extensive stakeholders' consultations, the Government decided to reduce the base price for registration of contracts by APEDA to USD 950 per MT, with effect from 26th October 2023.

(c) & (d) Yes, Extensive consultations were held while considering the revision of base price for registration of contracts for Basmati exports. The Government had constituted a committee in this regard, which held meetings with Basmati exporters and trade/industry associations based in Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1809
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2023

TMA SCHEME

1809. SHRI POCHA BRAHMANANDA REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the amount being paid per TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit) against the specified region in Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) scheme is extremely low compared to the freight amount that Indian exporters are paying now, if so, the facts thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any plans to extend the TMA scheme to all eligible items of exports considering the need to boost Indian exports globally;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government is going to extend the TMA scheme beyond the specified two years considering the hit Indian exports took during the pandemic; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (e) The Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) for Specified Agriculture Products Scheme was foreclosed vide Department of Commerce notification no. 17/2/2021-EP (Agri. IV) dated 25th March 2022. At present, no proposal for extension of the scheme is under consideration of the Government.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1816
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2023

INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

1816. SHRI RAJ KUMAR CHAHAR:
SHRI BHOLANATH (B.P. SAROJ):

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

- (a) the details of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) Supply Chain Agreement, which has been signed by Bharat recently during the Meet; and
- (b) the manner in which the negotiations for Pillar-III (Clean Economy), Pillar-IV (Fair Economy), and the Agreement on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity are likely to help the country?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) IPEF partners, including India, signed the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity Agreement Relating to Supply Chain Resilience (IPEF Supply Chain Agreement) on 14 November 2023. The IPEF Supply Chain Agreement is a first-of-its-kind plurilateral Agreement that aims to increase the resilience, efficiency, productivity, sustainability, transparency, diversification, security, fairness, and inclusivity of supply chains in the Indo-Pacific region. It seeks to establish institutional mechanisms to enable IPEF partners to work together on supply chains, including by developing deeper shared understanding of regional supply chains, improving crisis response capabilities for supply chain disruptions, sharing information and best practices on supply chain opportunities and vulnerabilities, facilitating business matching and investments, supporting MSMEs, facilitating Joint Research & Development, promoting supply chain resilience in critical sectors and key goods, and promoting labour rights and workforce development across IPEF supply chains.

(b) IPEF Pillar-III (Clean Economy) Agreement is expected to facilitate inward foreign investment with a focus on renewable energy and other environmentally friendly technologies. The Pillar emphasizes various initiatives to encourage private sector investment in climate-friendly projects including through the launch of IPEF Clean Economy Investment Forum and the IPEF Catalytic Capital Fund. The Pillar also emphasizes commitments to diversify supply chains, helping India avert disruptions and reduce dependence on sole suppliers for inputs such as critical minerals.

IPEF Pillar-IV (Fair Economy) Agreement envisages improvement in ease of doing business, enhancing investor confidence by providing a transparent and predictable ecosystem for businesses, supporting asset recovery by streamlining procedures across partner jurisdictions, and strengthening cross-border investigations and prosecutions and further global resolve to fight against corruption, money laundering and terror financing.

Agreement on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity establishes Ministerial mechanisms, which would monitor work under the Agreements negotiated under the IPEF Pillars, with a view to identifying ways to reduce duplication and potential conflicts and enable work between or across those agreements.
