

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 277 (H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21st MARCH, 2018

IMPORT RESTRICTIONS BY EU AND THE US

*277(H). SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR:

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

- (a) the details of import ban imposed by the European Union countries and the US on Indian products, on the basis of phytosanitary regulations and other non-tariff restrictions during last three years;
- (b) the total volume of export opportunities lost by India due to the above;
- (c) whether India is also utilising phytosanitary regulations and other non-tariff restrictions to protect the interests of Indian consumers and Indian economy; and
- (d) if so, the details of products, the imports of which have been blocked in India on the basis of phytosanitary regulations and other non-tariff restrictions during the last three years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI SURESH PRABHU)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 277(H) FOR ANSWER ON 21st MARCH, 2018 REGARDING “IMPORT RESTRICTIONS BY EU AND THE US”.

(a): As per available information, no ban has been imposed by US in the last three years.

EU had imposed a temporary ban on importation of mango and four other vegetables viz. brinjal, snake gourd, bitter gourd and taro leaves. The ban was imposed on the ground of interception of high number of harmful pests and organisms in the consignments exported to EU. However, through efforts made by India, the bans were revoked.

The details regarding ban imposition and revocation are given in the following Table:

Name of fruits and vegetables	Ban imposed by EU	Ban revoked by EU
Mango	1 st May 2014	5 th Feb 2015
four vegetables (brinjal, snake gourd, bitter gourd and taro leaves)	1 st May 2014	31 st Dec 2016

(b): The export of a product depends on numerous factors such as supply and demand of the products, ease of export to a country, sanitary and phyto-sanitary requirements of importing country, inflation rate, currency exchange rates etc. It is therefore not feasible to calculate the total export opportunities lost by India on account of import restrictions by EU and US based on phyto-sanitary regulations.

(c): Sanitary and Phyto Sanitary Agreement under the WTO recognizes Member States’ right to adopt or develop sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health. Such measures should be based as far as possible on the basis of objective and accurate scientific data with the aim to protect human, animal or plant life or health. As a member of WTO, all sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures developed by India are based on aforementioned conditions.

(d): In accordance with the WTO framework, India has in the last 3 years suspended imports of the following on the basis of interception of quarantine pests in the imported consignments:

- i. Coffee beans, Bamboo, Black Pepper, Cinnamon, Cassia and Dragon fruit from Vietnam
- ii. Apples, Pears and Tagetes Seeds from People’s Republic of China
