

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2429
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08th AUGUST, 2018

QUALITY OF FOOD PRODUCTS EXPORTED FROM INDIA

2429. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of food products from India are facing rejection in the export market due to their not being upto the quality standards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has devised any strategy to tackle this problem and improve the quality of the products;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

- (a & b) All importing countries food products have concerns relating to human, animal and plant health and hygiene and safety of food consumed by its citizens. As a measure of protection, importing countries often resort to rejections of individual consignments for non-compliance with their prescribed norms/safety standards/rules/regulations. The rejections can be due to various reasons viz. presence of pests, presence of pesticide or other chemical residues, improper packaging or labelling, poor quality etc. The data on rejections, specifically due to non-adherence to quality standards, is not available.
- (c to e) Yes, Sir. Following steps have been taken to reduce the number of rejections and improve the quality of food products to be exported:
- i. The Government has launched three digital initiatives for ease of export and ensuring quality of food exports. Details are as under:
 - Safe food export traceability portal: The portal provides comprehensive linkages pertaining to primary producers, suppliers, establishments, samplers and laboratories till export certification. The portal provides transparent official control mechanism and has provision for dynamic interface with importing countries.
 - One Lab One Assessment: This portal is a step forward towards simplification of procedures, removing multiple assessments by different authorities.
 - Monitoring of Export Alerts: The portal provides a common online platform for all regulatory authorities to collaborate and report the corrective action taken on export alerts.
 - ii. The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has introduced web-based traceability systems for various products viz. HORTINET, PEANUT.NET, TRACENET, MEAT.NET, BASMATI.NET etc.
 - iii. APEDA and other commodity boards provide assistance under their respective schemes for improving overall quality of India's food exports.
