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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 356
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04th FEBRUARY, 2022

DECLINE IN AGRI EXPORTS

356 SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the total agricultural exports have fallen significantly since 2013-14;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the reasons for this decline in export of agricultural produce;
(d) whether Government has conducted any study to analyse whether there is any issue with the quality of agri produce in terms of international standards; and
(e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Despite disruptions caused by COVID-19, agriculture exports touched USD 41.87 billion during 2020-21, registering an increase of 17.66%. During the current year, agriculture exports have amounted to USD 31.05 billion during the period April – November 2021, compared to USD 25.20 billion during the corresponding period of 2020-21, registering an increase of 23.21%.

During the period from 2014-15 to 2019-20, India's agriculture exports were impacted by various factors such as stagnant and falling global prices; low crude oil prices impacting sugar, vegetable oils and other bio-fuels related products; subdued global demand; poor domestic crops (reduced acreage/poor yield/poor quality); lower international prices compared to domestic prices; currency movements in competing countries; international developments with respect to sanctions against Russia & Iran etc.

(d) & (e): While no study on quality issues affecting agriculture exports has been conducted, all possible steps are taken to ensure that India's agriculture exports meet the quality requirements of importing countries. The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and various commodity boards regularly hold outreach and capacity building programmes to educate farmers and other stakeholders on measures required to meet specific requirements of importing countries for various products. Mandatory testing and traceability systems have also been put in place for specific products and specific markets to ensure that requirements of the importing countries are met.

Some sanitary and phytosanitary measures, in the form of setting very low Maximum Residue Level (MRL) of different chemical substances in agriculture products, have been put in place by various importing countries. The Government takes up these issues with these countries in all bilateral discussions for setting MRLs based on scientific risk assessment and international standards such as CODEX etc.

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