

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1959
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23rd DECEMBER, 2022

PERMISSION FOR EXPORT OF WHEAT

1959 SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:

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

- (a) whether country's sensitive foodgrains position was analysed when it was decided that wheat exports would be permitted;
- (b) whether this export facility permitted mainly two mega corporates to make huge profits from the historic high export prices caused by the Ukraine crisis;
- (c) whether it is a fact that when Government announced the ban on wheat exports, only two mega corporates could export, as they had bank guarantees through irrevocable LCs; and
- (d) whether this resulted in one corporate to export one-third of India's wheat while the second exported two-thirds?

ANSWER

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

(a): As there was a sudden spike in the global prices of wheat, the Government, on 13th May, 2022, amended the export policy of wheat from 'Free' to 'Prohibited' in order to provide for overall food security of the country and to support the needs of the neighbouring and other vulnerable countries. Export of wheat was permitted under the following conditions:

- (i) As a transitional arrangement, export was allowed in case of shipments where Irrevocable Letter of Credit (ICLC) has been issued on or before the date of publication; or
- (ii) Export was also allowed on the basis of permission granted by the Government to other countries to meet their food security needs and based on the request of their governments.

(b) to (d): As mentioned at Para (a) (i) above, 186 exporters have been given permission to export wheat in accordance with provisions of transitional arrangements under the Foreign Trade Policy, 2015-2020, which has now been extended upto 31.03.2023.
