

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *182
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17th MARCH, 2023

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR APEDA

***182. DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:**

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

- (a) whether Government has increased budgetary allocation for Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for improving exports of agro products and for the facilitation of Export Promotion Councils;
- (b) if so, the details of the annual budget allocation made in the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) whether Government has taken steps to provide adequate staff strength in APEDA and its allied organisations, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken to provide special impetus for agro exports from Tamil Nadu?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 182 FOR ANSWER ON 17th MARCH, 2023 REGARDING “BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR APEDA” BY DR. M. THAMBIDURAI.

(a) & (b): The details of budgetary allocation for Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for the last three years for implementation of ‘Agriculture & Processed Food Export Promotion Scheme of APEDA’, are as under:

Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Budgetary Allocation (Rs. In crores)	73.64	83.60	85.00

(c): In order to re-orient its focus from disbursement of subsidies/incentives to effectively pursuing the market access; providing commercial intelligence; ensuring quality and adherence to standards; and handling of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) issues, the Government has approved a restructuring plan for APEDA. Further, 20 new Group A posts have been created in view of the ever-increasing role of APEDA in promotion of export of agricultural and processed food.

(d): In order to provide an impetus to agriculture exports from Tamil Nadu, APEDA has established a Regional Office in Chennai in February 2021. The Regional Office has been conducting outreach and sensitization programmes for creating awareness about agriculture exports among the various stakeholders. A total of 47 such programmes have been organised since February 2021. Trichy, Theni, and Pollachi districts of Tamil Nadu have been identified as a cluster for export of banana. Similarly, Namakkal, Erode, and Salem districts have been identified as a cluster for export of poultry products.

Further, APEDA, in collaboration with Tamil Nadu State Agriculture Market Board (TNSAMB) has been organising stakeholder meetings in these clusters to boost exports. APEDA, in association with Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) -National Research Centre for Banana (NRCB), also organized a 2-day National level workshop on ‘Export of GI and traditional bananas’ at Trichy in December, 2022, to boost export opportunities. A total of 13 APEDA-recognized packhouses for horticulture products have also been established to facilitate exports. As a result of these efforts, export of eggs to Malaysia and that of bananas to West Asian countries have already taken place.

Further, a Farmer Connect Portal has been developed for providing a platform for farmers, Farmer-Producer Organizations (FPOs) and cooperatives to interact with exporters. Buyer-Seller Meets (BSMs) have been organized in the clusters to provide export-market linkages. Regular interactions, through video conferences, have been held with the Indian Missions abroad, to assess and tap export opportunities. Country specific BSMs, through Indian Missions, have also been organized.

The Department of Commerce provides financial assistance to promote exports, including exports of agricultural 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.

APEDA also provides financial and technical assistance to eligible exporters, including those in Tamil Nadu, under various components of its export promotion scheme viz. Infrastructure Development, Quality Development and Market Development.
