

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1321
ANSWERED ON 02/08/2024

FOREIGN RESTRICTIONS ON INDIAN SPICES

1321. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that countries like Singapore and Hong Kong have banned Indian spices, the details thereof;
- (b) the reasons behind these restrictions and the steps taken by Government to check them; and
- (c) whether sale of the said products is legal within the country and if so, the negative effects it will have on health of the citizens?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) & (b) Indian Spices have not been banned by Singapore and Hong Kong. Specific batches of few spice mixtures exported from India were recalled by Food Safety Authorities in Hong Kong and Singapore due to the presence of ethylene oxide (EtO) above permissible limits. As part of its import surveillance, the Singapore Food Agency put the consignments of spices from the associated brands under Hold-and-Test regime for a period of one month.

Spices Board has taken various steps including mandatory pre-shipment testing of Spices being exported to these destinations, issuance of comprehensive guidelines to be followed by exporters to prevent possible EtO contamination at all stages namely, procurement of raw materials, processing, packing, storage, transportation etc., to meet the varying EtO limits of the importing country.

(c) All the food commodities including spices whether manufactured/processed domestically or imported for consumption in domestic markets in India are required to comply with the standards laid down under the food safety and standards regulations. The regulations provide for the quality and safety parameters that every food product has to comply with.
