

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE
RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 529.
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 07TH FEBRUARY, 2025.**

GRANTING OF GI TAG TO BANDEL CHEESE

529. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the demand for granting a Geographical Indication GI tag to Bandel Cheese, a traditional cheese from Bandel in Hooghly district;
- (b) whether the Ministry has received any proposals from the Government of West Bengal or other stakeholders regarding the inclusion of Bandel Cheese in GI registry, if so, the current status of these proposals; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Ministry to assess the eligibility of Bandel Cheese for GI recognition, and the manner in which the plan to support the preservation and promotion of this traditional product?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c):** No application has been received for registration of "Bandel Cheese" from Bandel in Hooghly District either in the Department or in the Geographical Indications (GI) Registry, which is the statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The GI registry is responsible for registering GI products, which can include agricultural, natural, manufactured goods, handicrafts, and foodstuffs. The registration process is voluntary, and an application must be made by a Producers' Association or a relevant authority representing the producers under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999, and Rules, 2002. The registry assists producers in filing applications by providing guidance and support.
