

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-688
ANSWERED ON 05/12/2025

AGRI EXPORT ZONES

688. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :-

- (a) the total value and volume of agricultural shipments rejected by importing markets in the last five years, the details thereof, year-wise, commodity-wise and State-wise;
- (b) the details of the top reasons of rejection-such as pesticide residues, aflatoxin contamination, or SPS non-compliance for each commodity and partner market;
- (c) the steps taken to reinstitute agri-export clusters or Agri Export Zones (AEZs) linked with certification labs and processing units for niche commodities; and
- (d) whether Government is considering setting up crop-specific export clusters with shared testing, cold-storage, and capacity-building infrastructure, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) & (b): Rejections of agricultural products by importing countries are notified as non-compliances. The reasons for the non-compliances differ from product to product and are majorly because of difference in standard limit of constituents. The available details of non-compliances, as notified by the importing countries during the period between 2021 to 2025 (till date) for key commodities are placed at **Annexure**.

(c) & (d): The National Horticulture Board (NHB), under the administrative control of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India is implementing the Horticulture Cluster Development Program (HCDP), which was conceptualized and launched in May 2021, with the objective of leveraging the geographical specialization of horticulture clusters and promoting integrated, market-led development across the value chain covering pre-production, production, post-harvest management, logistics, branding and marketing. Initially, 12 horticulture clusters were started under the pilot phase. Based on the learnings from the pilot, the guidelines for the Cluster Development Program were revised in January 2025. This integrated approach is expected to strengthen export readiness and enhance the global competitiveness of horticulture produce. There is currently no proposal to reinstitute the Agri Export Zones notified during the period 2001-05.

Annexure to in reply to part (a) & (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 688 for 05.12.2025

DETAILS OF NON-COMPLIANCES

Commodity	Number of non-compliances				
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 (till date)
European Union					
Rice	10	39	25	38	41
Peanut and Peanut Products	11	37	17	7	15
Fruits and Vegetables	24	20	26	24	19
Processed Food Products	38	33	23	32	24
Other (Ghee)	-	-	-	-	1
Spices	25	56	56	35	73
Indonesia					
Peanut and Peanut Products	-	1	2	4	12
Wheat	-	2	-	-	-
Thailand					
Peanut	-	-	7	3	8
Vietnam					
Peanut	-	1	-	-	-
Azerbaijan					
Peanut	-	-	1	-	-
Philippines					
Peanut	-	-	2	-	-
Spices	0	0	0	0	2
Singapore					
Peanut	-	-	8	-	-
Spices	-	-	-	-	2
Australia					
Peanut and Peanut Products	-	-	-	2	3
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	-	-	-	1	2
Other Processed foods	-	-	-	19	5
Spices	-	-	14	15	17
Taiwan					
Tea	1	-	-	-	-

USA					
Tea	-	-	-	1	-
Spices	93	102	60	74	169
Japan					
Spices	-	-	2	2	-
Hong Kong					
Spices	-	-	-	2	4
Other countries					
Spices	6	1	2	4	-

*Source : As compiled by APEDA, Tea Board and Spices Board, based on the information available on Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASSF) portal of European Commission and the non compliances received from the Competent Authorities of importing countries.
