

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 689
ANSWERED ON 24/07/2026

ONION EXPORT POLICY IN MAHARASHTRA AND ITS IMPACT ON FARMERS

689. DR. JYOTI NAGNATH WAGHMARE:

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

- (a) whether Government has formulated any special incentive schemes to make onion farmers in major districts like Nashik and Ahmednagar of Maharashtra globally competitive and to bring about their economic empowerment;
- (b) the outcomes in terms of strengthening the reputation and share of Indian onion in traditional international markets following the historic decision to remove export duty on onion in April, 2025; and
- (c) whether Government is considering formulating a permanent, sustainable and transparent export policy to safeguard farmers' income and maintain a balance in the interests of consumers, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

- (a) Government accords high priority to the economic empowerment of onion farmers in all onion-producing districts, including Nashik and Ahmednagar, through a comprehensive basket of export-facilitation, infrastructure and market-access measures, including:
 - Export Promotion Mission (EPM): Announced in Union Budget 2025-26 with an outlay of ₹25,060 crore (FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31), operating through two sub-schemes, Niryat Prothsaahan, focused on improving access to trade finance through instruments such as interest subvention, export factoring, collateral guarantees for export credit, credit guarantee for e-commerce exporters, and credit enhancement support; and Niryat Disha, focused on other trade enablers such as export quality and compliance support, international branding and packaging, market access initiatives, export logistics & warehousing, and trade intelligence;
 - Districts as Export Hubs (DEH) initiative, under which District Export Action Plans are formulated in coordination with the State Government to strengthen infrastructure, logistics, branding and market access in leading onion belts such as Nashik;

- APEDA's Financial Assistance Scheme, extending support for export infrastructure, quality development and market development for scheduled products including onion, supplemented by the 'BHARATI' initiative;
- Storage, curing, grading/sorting and cold-chain infrastructure promoted under the National Horticulture Board (NHB), and GI-tagging and branding support facilitated through APEDA.

(b) The withdrawal of the 20% export duty on onion, effective 1 April 2025, restored India's price-competitiveness in traditional markets. India exported 11.48 lakh metric tonnes of fresh onion valued at USD 453.95 million in 2024-25, and the positive trend has continued into 2025-26, with about 1.50 lakh metric tonnes exported in June 2026 alone.

(c) Government follows a stable, evidence-based and farmer-friendly export policy framework, resting on:

- Dynamic Monitoring: continuous monitoring of acreage, arrivals, wholesale and retail prices; as on 4 July 2026, daily mandi arrivals stood at over 50,000 MT nationally (over 30,000 MT in Maharashtra), with an all-India average retail price of ₹31/kg, while 2025-26 production is estimated at 307.37 LMT, comparable to 307.67 LMT in 2024-25;
- Evidence-Based Policy: temporary export interventions applied only during extraordinary circumstances of a domestic price spike; as soon as domestic prices soften, restrictions are lifted to support farmers and exporters;
- Strengthening Infrastructure: large investments in storage, irradiation, pack-houses and logistics under NHB and other schemes; and
- Onion Buffer under the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF), with NAFED and NCCF procuring onions to prevent distress sales.

Government has affirmed that all export measures have been time-bound, transparent and lifted promptly once domestic availability stabilised, reflecting a balanced approach that safeguards both farmer income and consumer affordability.
