

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 425
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th DECEMBER, 2017

PACKAGING STANDARDS FOR EXPORTS

425. SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:

SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:

SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:

KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री)** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether absence of proper packaging has resulted in a large amount of Indian food items getting rejected in developing market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the names of the countries which have imposed ban on import of Indian food products on ground of contamination;
- (d) whether the Government proposes new packaging norms for export of food items to address concerns over food Safety and health standards and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Ministry has also constituted a committee to formulate packaging standards for export; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said Committee is likely to submit its report to the Government?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

- (a& b) All importing countries food products have concerns relating to human, animal and plant health and hygiene and safety of food consumed by its citizens. As a measure of protection, importing countries often resort to rejections of individual consignments for non-compliance with their prescribed norms/safety standards/rules/regulations. The Government does not maintain any data on rejections of individual consignments.
- (c) At present, there is no instance of a formal country-specific ban on import of food products from India on grounds of contamination.

- (d) The packaging of food products, for exports as well as the domestic market, is regulated under the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and labelling) Regulations, 2011 of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

- (e) The Government of India has constituted a Packaging Standards Committee under the Chairmanship of the Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce to discuss challenges to India's exports and how improved packaging can help to boost exports.

- (f) The Committee comprises of representatives from Department of Commerce, Department of Consumer Affairs, Bureau of Indian Standards, FSSAI, Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Tea Board, Coffee Board, Tobacco Board, Spices Board and Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP). The Committee has been mandated to identify various products (preferably with an export oriented focus) for developing packaging standards in line with or benchmarked to international standards. IIP has already designed and developed packaging standards and specifications for 28 varieties of fruits and vegetables for unit as well as bulk packaging and the report has been submitted to APEDA. APEDA has hosted the packaging standards on its website for the benefit of exporters.
