

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3782
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19th MARCH, 2018

EXPORT-IMPORT POLICY

3782. SHRI MALYADRI SRIRAM:

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

- (a) the salient features of the current Export-Import policy of the Government with respect to agriculture products/ produce;
- (b) whether Indian farmers are getting maximum prices for their produce despite excessive import of Agriculture/food products and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to review the said Export-Import policy; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the other remedial steps taken by 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) The export and import policy for agricultural products is framed keeping several factors in mind such as availability of surplus over the domestic requirements (including the requirement of buffer stock and strategic reserve, if any), concerns of food security, diplomatic/humanitarian considerations, international demand and supply situation, price competitiveness, need to balance between remunerative prices to the growers and availability of agricultural products to common man at affordable prices etc.

So far as export policy is concerned, the only major agricultural commodity, export of which is prohibited, is edible oils. However, several exemptions have been allowed and bulk export of Groundnut oil, Sesame oil, Soyabean oil, Maize (Corn) oil, Rice Bran oil, Coconut oil, Organic edible oils and minor forest produce oils is permitted. Exports of all edible oils are also allowed in consumer packs of up to 5 Kgs subject to Minimum Export Price of USD 900/MT. Export of all other agricultural products is permitted subject to fulfilment of conditions specified for individual products.

As regards import policy, import of agricultural products is allowed subject to fulfilment of phytosanitary requirements and other conditions specified for individual products. However, some quantitative restrictions (2 lakh MT p.a. for Tur and 3 lakh MT p.a. for Moong & Urad) have been imposed on import of pulses.

- (b) The prices of agricultural commodities depend on several factors such as demand and supply situation (both domestic and international), prevailing international prices, quality etc. So far

as imports are concerned, India's import of agricultural commodities is dominated by edible oils and pulses, which are in short supply in India and imports are necessary. Import of other commodities is not large enough to impact the domestic price in any significant way.

(c & d) The review of Export-Import Policy for agricultural products is an ongoing process. The policies in respect of individual products are framed on the basis of prevailing situation after consultation with the line Ministries/Departments such as Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution etc. and other stakeholders.
