

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4978(H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th MARCH, 2018

EXPORT OF GRAPES AND ITS PRODUCTS

4978(H). SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL:

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

- (a) the details of the quantum and value of grapes and its products including currants etc. exported from the country during the last three years;
- (b) whether the excise duty on export worthy grape and its products including currants etc. has increased by Rs. 70 per kilogram and the Government is aware of its effects and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government of Bangladesh has increased the import duty on Indian grapes and its products due to which the export of grapes and its products including currants etc. is decreasing;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to enhance the export of grape and its products including currants etc.?

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 details of the quantum and value of export of grapes and its products, during the last three years, are as under:

Description	Quantity in MT; Value in USD Million					
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
GRAPES FRESH	94,569.91	158.04	1,32,647.60	203.16	1,98,471.30	267.04
RAISINS	12,325.64	17.72	26,825.10	31.16	30,859.09	40.10
SULTANAS AND OTHER DRIED GRAPES	554.76	1.01	1,556.34	1.57	1,786.47	2.18

Source: DGCIS

- (b) The excise duty has been replaced by the Goods & Services Tax (GST) with effect from 1st July 2018. The GST rate for fresh grapes is NIL whereas the GST rate for dried grapes and raisins is 12%.
- (c & d) As per the available information, the MFN rate on the import of grapes into Bangladesh has remain unchanged at 25% since 2014-15. However, there has been some increase in 2017-18 in the total incidence of import duties, due to changes in

other components in the duties. During the Commerce Secretary level talks held between India and Bangladesh on 7-8 February 2018, the Indian side raised the issue of levy of high duty on import of grapes/raisins into Bangladesh from India. It was also highlighted that these products do not enjoy preferential access under the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), as the products are in the sensitive list maintained by Bangladesh. It was requested that the reduction in import duty may be operationalised by the removal of these products from the sensitive list under SAFTA. Bangladesh side took note of India's request and agreed to examine it.

- (e) The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), an autonomous organisation under the administrative control of the Department of Commerce, has the mandate to promote exports of agricultural & processed food products, including grapes and its products. APEDA provides assistance to the exporters of agricultural and processed food products, including grapes and its products, under various component of its scheme "Agriculture & Processed Food Export promotion Scheme of APEDA" viz. Infrastructure Development, Quality Development and Market Development. In addition, Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) assistance of 5% is provided on export of grapes and its products. Assistance is also provided to exporters/State Governments under various other schemes of Department of Commerce viz. Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES), Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme etc.
