

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2901
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20/12/2023

EXPORT OF FARM PRODUCTS

2901. SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that global farm prices have softened after reaching their highest levels in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine;
- (b) if so, its impact on Indian farm exports;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that agriculture exports declined by 11.6% in 2023 as compared to previous year;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to increase exports of farm products?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (e) The Food Price Index maintained by Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, which had touched a peak of 159.7 in March 2022, has come down to 120.4 in November 2023, indicating a softening in global farm prices.

Due to fall in international prices, per unit value realizations on exports of several farm products such as tea, spices, cereals, cashew, guar gum meal, fresh vegetables, dairy products, vegetable oils, castor oil, cotton etc. have declined during 2023-24 as compared to 2022-23.

Thus, During the period from April to September 2023, agriculture exports have declined by 11.6% compared to corresponding period of the previous year.

Besides the decline in international prices, which has impacted per unit value realizations, the restrictions imposed on export of essential food products, such as wheat, non-basmati rice, sugar and

onions, to ensure domestic food security, have also contributed to decline in value of agriculture exports in the current year.

The Department of Commerce provides financial assistance to promote exports, including exports of farm products, through Market Access Initiatives (MAI) Scheme, and Export Promotion Schemes of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Tea Board, Coffee Board, Spices Board etc. Further, the Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), a statutory organisation under the administrative control of Department of Commerce, is engaged in promoting exports of farm products. APEDA has been providing assistance to the exporters of farm products under various components of its Export Promotion Scheme.

A Farmer Connect Portal has also been developed for providing a platform for farmers, Farmer-Producer Organizations (FPOs) and cooperatives to directly interact with exporters. Buyer Seller Meets (BSMs) are organized in the clusters to provide export-market linkages. Regular interactions, through video conferences, are held with the Indian Missions abroad, to assess and tap export opportunities. Country specific BSMs, through Indian Missions, are also organized. Continuous efforts are also made to resolve market access, trade barriers, sanitary and phytosanitary issues in the sector.
