

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.677
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH DECEMBER, 2023

EXPORT OF SUGAR TO MALDIVES

677. SHRI KUMBAKUDI SUDHAKARAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry of Consumer Affairs is aware of the Bilateral Trade Agreement(BTA) between India and Maldives, that exempts essential commodities including sugar from existing or future restrictions for export to Maldives;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has received any communication from the Ministry of External Affairs recently to permit an export order of sugar to the state owned STO of the Government of Maldives;
- (d) whether it is true that the Director of Sugar has denied permission, despite the DGFT notification explicitly exempting the export of essential items, including sugar, to Maldives from any existing or future restrictions;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor and if not, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Ministry agrees that the supply of essential items, including sugar, is crucial for the trade relations between India and Maldives, given the geopolitical significance of the country; and
- (g) if so, the present status of the said BTA with Maldives?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) & (b): The Government has notified the Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) between India and Maldives vide Directorate General of Foreign Trade's Notification No. 14/2015-2020 dated 12.07.2021.

(c): Department of Food and Public Distribution has not received any communication in sugar season 2023-24, from Ministry of External Affairs to permit an export order of sugar to the state owned STO of the Government of Maldives.

(d),(e), (f) & (g): No request has been received till date in the current season from the Ministry of External Affairs to allow export of sugar to Maldives.

The details of sugar exports from India to Maldives from 2019-20 onwards as under:-

Financial Years (April to March)	Qty exported (in MT)
2019-20	1171.1
2020-21	3112.9
2021-22	4296.3
2022-23	5635.97

(Source- DGFT)

Further, in view of the anticipated decline of sugar production in current sugar season 2023-24; and to ensure sufficient availability of sugar for domestic consumption at a reasonable price, vide DGFT Notification No.36/2023 dated 18.10.2023, export of sugar (raw/white/refined/ organic) has been kept in 'Restricted' category till further orders.

Supply of essential items, including sugar to a country with which Government of India has Bi-lateral Trade agreement, can be honoured as per the stock availability after the domestic consumption.
