

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 245**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**INDO-US TRADE RELATIONS**

\*245. SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:  
SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA:

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

- (a) whether USA has lifted or is considering to lift the ban on entry of Indian fruits to American markets and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether this welcome step will resolve the outstanding trade issues between the two countries and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the USA and Indian Governments have formed any trade policy forum for regular interaction with each other and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for registration of packing houses and processing units for fresh fruits and vegetables to ensure compliance with international standards;
- (e) whether ban on certain vegetables like bitter gourd, eggplant, etc., is still continuing and if so, the details thereof and the efforts made for lifting of the ban on these vegetables; and
- (f) the amount of revenue likely to be generated from exports after lifting of the ban?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ( श्री पीयूष गोयल )

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

\*\*\*\*\*

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 245 FOR ANSWER ON 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2021  
REGARDING “ INDO-US TRADE RELATIONS”.**

**(a) and (b):** There is no ban on entry of Indian fruits into the U.S. market. India has market access for fruits including banana, pomegranate, mango, watermelon and coconut. However, the export of pomegranate arils was suspended by the U.S. in 2018. Further, the export of Indian mangoes and pomegranate fruits was held up since 2020 in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic as export pre-clearance inspection by the US inspectors could not be carried out due to travel restrictions.

In the 12<sup>th</sup> India-US Trade Policy Forum Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021, the U.S. agreed to finalize market access for pomegranate arils as well as oversight transfer to India for pre-clearance for mangoes and pomegranate, which will facilitate export of these commodities to the U.S.

**(c):** The India-U.S. Trade Policy Forum (TPF), formed in 2005, is a bilateral forum for discussion and resolution of trade and investment issues between the two countries. It is co-chaired by Indian Commerce & Industry Minister and the United States Trade Representative. The 12<sup>th</sup> India-U.S. TPF Ministerial meeting was convened on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2021. After the meeting a Joint Statement covering the ambit of bilateral trade and commercial issues and way forward was released, which is available at <https://commerce.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/TPF-Joint-Statement-2021-Nov-23-Final.pdf>.

**(d):** To ensure compliance with international standards for fruits and vegetables and other horticulture produce, Government provides grant for setting up of pack houses. In addition, Government bodies viz APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) and NPPO (National Plant Protection Organization) register and recognize pack houses based on the Standard Operating Procedure in conformity with established international standards such as International Organization for Standardization (ISO)/Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP)/ British Retail Consortium (BRC).

**(e) and (f):** There is no ban on entry of vegetables such as bitter gourd and eggplants from India to the U.S. As per DGCIS figures, India exported US\$ 72.57 million worth of vegetables in 2019-20 and US\$ 101.25 million in 2020-21 to the US.

\*\*\*\*\*