

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1240
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09th FEBRUARY, 2022

AGRICULTURAL TRADE

1240. DR. AMAR SINGH:

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

- (a) the details of the agreements aimed at expanding the scope of agricultural trade between India and other countries during the last three years;
- (b) the details of the nation's stance at the WTO negotiation table for agricultural trade of other countries with India;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any studies to measure the country's capabilities in agricultural exports along with its future prospects; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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): Under the India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) signed in February 2021 and implemented with effect from April 2021, Mauritius has offered import duty concessions to India's agricultural products

(b): At the WTO negotiations, India has been making efforts to obtain a permanent solution to the issue of public stockholding for food security purposes. On the issue of agricultural domestic support, India is of the view that the WTO Agreement on Agriculture provides considerable flexibility to the developed members to provide huge trade distorting domestic support and further, to concentrate the subsidies on a few products. This asymmetry needs to be addressed on priority in agricultural reform, however, without shifting the burden of reduction of agricultural subsidies to developing countries and preserving the special and differential treatment provisions in the agreement. In addition, India, along with other members, has been demanding Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) for developing countries, which is another mandated issue for agricultural negotiations at the WTO.

(c) & (d): A High-Level Advisory Group (HLAG) was constituted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to assess the global environment and make recommendations for boosting India's share and importance in global merchandise and services trade; managing pressing bilateral trade relations; and mainstreaming new age policy making. HLAG submitted its report in September 2019 containing macro recommendations as well as sector-specific recommendations, including for the agriculture sector.
