

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2441
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16th MARCH, 2022

CRISIS IN CASHEW INDUSTRY

2441. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the financial crisis suffered by cashew exporters in the country among whom large number of such exporters are from Kerala, during Covid pandemic; and,
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to boost the cashew exports and promote existing exporters; 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) & (b): Government has taken several steps during Covid 19 pandemic for MSMEs regarding relaxation in statutory compliances like filing of GST returns in time, timely refunds of GST payments, credit support including certain measures for MSME Sector. Moreover, RBI has announced measures for MSME industry by providing Regulatory Package and resolution framework. Government of India has also launched a special scheme named Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) to MSMEs including cashew industry to meet their additional term loan/ additional working capital requirements. All these reliefs were available Cashew industry also.
- (c) & (d): Directorate of Cashewnut and Cocoa Development has initiated various measures under MIDH and RKVY for implementing cashew development programmes in 19 states including Kerala to enhance domestic production of cashew nuts in the country to feed the domestic cashew industries.

The export of cashew for the period of April 2021 to January 2022 is US \$ 379.30 Million, which is 10.68% higher in value terms as compare to export of cashew for the relative period in the financial year 2020-21. To promote agricultural exports including cashew, the Government has introduced a Central Sector Scheme –‘Transport and Marketing Assistance for Specified Agriculture Products’– for providing assistance for the international component of freight, to mitigate the freight disadvantage for the export of agriculture products. In addition, regular interactions through videoconferences have also been held with the Indian Missions abroad, to assess and exploit export opportunities. Country specific BSMs have also been organized through Indian Missions. Besides these steps taken by the Government, the Department of Commerce also provides assistance through several other schemes, to promote exports, including exports of agricultural products viz. Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES), Market Access Initiatives (MAI) Scheme.
