

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *308
ANSWERED ON 17/12/2024

HALAL CERTIFICATIONS

*308. DR. K SUDHAKAR:

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

- (a) whether certain countries insist upon Halal certifications with respect to imports from India, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether such a certification is religious or non-religious in nature and the reasons due to which such certifications are approved in India;
- (c) the details of specific steps taken by the Government to ensure the quality of imports into our country;
- (d) whether there is any rise in the import of substandard goods into the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any steps are taken by the Government to ensure that our export-import standards are in line with international certifications, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether any steps are taken by the Government to enter into more free trade agreements with other countries or regional blocs and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय में 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 OF PART (a) to (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 308 FOR ANSWER ON 17th DECEMBER, 2024 REGARDING “HALAL CERTIFICATIONS”.

(a) & (b) The major importing countries of meat and meat products such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Egypt, Iran, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries etc. have their own regulations, standards and system for certification of imports of Halal products. Exports of meat products from India and other countries are required to be compliant with the country’s specific requirements for Halal. As per the India Conformity Assessment Scheme (i-CAS) for Halal formulated for export of specified meat products, Halal certificate is a Certificate of Conformity that confirms that the product, process or service meets the Halal standards/regulations and the Halal requirements as per Islamic Shariah Law.

The India Conformity Assessment Scheme (i-CAS) for Halal has been developed in line with global requirements & best practices to facilitate meat exports to countries requiring Halal Certification and also streamlining the certification process. With respect to the export of specified meat products destined to specified countries, the i-CAS for Halal, is mandatory apart from the compliance with the respective importing countries requirements.

(c) The steps to ensure the quality of food imports into country are as follows:

(i) Risk based sampling of food products is in place at Customs Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade.

(ii) The food articles, referred to FSSAI for clearance, are subjected to scrutiny of documents, Visual inspection, sampling and laboratory testing. If sample is found conforming then No Objection Certificate (NOC) is generated and if not conforming, then Non-Conforming Report (NCR) is generated.

(iii) Import of high-risk food products are restricted only through 79 entry points, which are manned and managed by FSSAI and Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

(d) Based on the food import data available in FSSAI's Food Import Clearance system (FICS) for the period of FY 2022-2023 and FY 2023-2024, no increase in substandard food imports has been observed.

(e) FSSAI has developed specific standards for food products and labelling in alignment with international standards like Codex. These regulations ensure that food imports comply with safety, quality, and labelling requirements while maintaining harmony with global norms. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) regulates food imports under Section 25 of the FSS Act, 2006 and the Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulations, 2017. The Act prohibits importing unsafe, misbranded, sub-standard food or food without proper licensing.

The exports from India comply with standards and certification requirements of importing country. Further, to ensure quality of exports, certain food products are notified by Government of India under the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act (EIC Act), 1963.

The Act specifies that food products are being exported after ensuring that product is meeting the importing country requirements as applicable from time to time. Food products notified by Government of India under the EIC Act are as under:

Sr. no.	Commodities
i	Basmati Rice
ii	Fish & Fishery Products
iii	Honey
iv	Milk & Milk Products
v	Egg & Egg Products
vi	Fresh Poultry Meat and Poultry Meat Products
vii	Raw Meat Products (Chilled/Frozen)
viii	Processed Meat Products
ix	Animal Casing
x	Crushed Bones, Ossein and Gelatine
xi	Fruits Products
xii	Feed Additives & Premixture
xiii	Peanut and Peanut Products
xiv	Salt
xv	Black pepper

(f) India has so far concluded 14 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and 6 Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs). In addition, India is currently negotiating FTAs with other trading partners namely with UK, EU, Oman, Australia (comprehensive agreement building on India-Australia Economic Co-operation and Trade Agreement), Peru and Sri Lanka. Moreover, India has also initiated review of its existing FTAs namely (i) India-South Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), and (ii) ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA).
