GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 425
ANSWERED ON 21/07/2026

ONION EXPORT POLICY

425. SHRI RAJABHAU PARAG PRAKASH WAJE:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that onion farmers of Maharashtra, particularly from Nashik district, have suffered severe financial distress due to Centre's frequent and unpredictable interventions in onion export policy, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that these policy decisions resulted in a sharp decline in domestic onion prices, forcing farmers in Nashik, Lasalgaon and the other major onion-producing regions to sell onions below their cost of production, while consumers did not receive commensurate benefits, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government acknowledges that the repeated use of export restrictions has undermined India's credibility in the international onion market and adversely affected farmers' income security, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to formulate a stable long-term export policy, provide legal price protection for onion farmers and establish a compensation mechanism for losses arising from sudden export restrictions and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER
वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री (श्री जितिन प्रसाद)
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (d) The Government continuously monitors the availability, market arrivals, wholesale and retail prices, buffer stock position and export trends of onion across the country, including in Maharashtra and the Nashik region.

Onion prices are influenced by several factors, including *inter alia*, crop area, weather conditions, seasonality, production and productivity, arrivals, storage losses, domestic demand and international prices. Therefore, variations in mandi prices cannot be attributed solely to changes in the export policy.

The existing policy framework provides for market intervention, buffer procurement and calibrated trade-policy measures. Whenever domestic supplies show stress, calibrated and temporary measures, such as minimum export price (MEP), export duties, or temporary restrictions, are imposed in the public interest to ensure food security, and withdrawn once the supply situation eases.

The export policy of onion is accordingly calibrated from time to time, based on the prevailing domestic availability and price situation, with the objective of balancing the interests of farmers and domestic consumers. The flexible export regime based on the dynamics of domestic availability and prices gives Government the ability to respond promptly to exceptional supply and price situations.

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