RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 961
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH MARCH, 2015

VISIT OF US DELEGATION TO INDIA

961. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether any US delegation has recently visited India to hold consultation and to enter into agreements relating to bilateral trade;
b) if so, the details thereof indicating the consultations held and agreements signed in this regard during the said visit;
c) whether any decision was taken to form a Trade Policy Forum (TPF) to discuss trade and investment issues between the two countries; and
d) if so, the details thereof along with the progress made in this regard?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) Yes, Sir. A delegation led by US Trade Representative Mr. Michael Froman visited India during the 8th Ministerial-level Meeting of the India-United States Trade Policy Forum (TPF) held in New Delhi on November 25, 2014.

(b) India and United States discussed issues relating to Market Access for Agricultural Products, Services, Investment in Manufacturing and Intellectual Property Rights. India and United States signaled their readiness to enhance bilateral trade and investment ties in a manner that promotes economic growth and job creation in both the countries. Work Plans on Services, Agriculture, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and Investment in Manufacturing were also adopted for continued engagement.

(c) & (d) : India-US TPF is already in existence since the time it was established in July, 2005. The India-US TPF is designed to enhance bilateral trade and investment relations between India and the United States.

***************
MEASURES TO INCREASE FOREIGN TRADE

962. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) the measures being/have been taken by Government to increase the foreign trade and export in the country;
b) whether it is a fact that our export has declined for the last three years; and
c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) Exports are supported through schemes of Foreign Trade Policy as well as various promotional schemes of concerned Ministries/Departments. The schemes of Foreign Trade Policy are Focus Market Scheme, Market Linked Focus Product Scheme, Focus Product Scheme and Duty Drawback Scheme. Exporters can also avail duty free import of capital Goods under EPCG Scheme and raw materials under Advance Authorisation Scheme. The Government of India continuously monitors the export performance of different sectors and takes need based measures from time to time, keeping in view the financial and overall economic implications.

(b) & (c) During 2012-13, exports declined by 1.82% in comparison to 2011-12, whereas in 2013-14 exports increased by 4.66%. During the current year 2014-15(Apr-Jan) exports have witnessed a growth of 2.44% over the corresponding period of last year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value (US $ Billion)</td>
<td>305.96</td>
<td>300.40</td>
<td>314.41</td>
<td>258.72</td>
<td>265.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth(%)</td>
<td>22.48</td>
<td>(-)1.82</td>
<td>4.66</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(P : Provisional)

**********************************************************
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 963
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH MARCH, 2015

PERFORMANCE OF STC, KOLKATA BRANCH

963. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether Government is satisfied with the performance of State Trading Corporation (STC) branch of Kolkata and its branch manager;
b) if so, the details of the satisfaction criteria and if not, what action has been taken against concerned non-performing authority;
c) what is the annual turnover of STC, Kolkata during the period of 2013-14; and
d) the details of the total expenditure incurred on the STC, Kolkata Branch during the period 2013-14?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a)&(b) Key areas of business of STC, Kolkata Branch have been Coal and Bullion. The performance areas of senior officers of STC (including Branch Manager, STC, Kolkata) are mutually agreed between the official and his Reporting Authority at the beginning of the financial year and evaluated at the end of the year as per guidelines of Department of Public Enterprises. Turnover of the STC, Kolkata Branch came down during 2013-14 mainly due to restrictions imposed by regulatory agencies which affected STC’s coal imports. Further, the Branch could not import gold in view of non-resolution of State VAT issues. Performance of the Branch is being monitored on regular basis by the Corporate Office to improve the functioning of the Branch.

c) The annual turnover of STC, Kolkata Branch for the period 2013-14 is Rs. 139 crore.

d) The total expenditure of STC, Kolkata Branch for the period 2013-14 is Rs.9.23 crore (Rs. 7.99 cr. on Establishment, Rs.1.05 cr. on Administration and Rs.0.19 cr. on Trade).

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

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 964  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH MARCH, 2015

DECLINE IN EXPORTS

964. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether it is a fact that there is steep decline in the export during last one year;
b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for this steep decline;
c) the steps taken by Government to boost the exports; and
d) the details of their impact on our economy?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) & (b) The comparative details of exports, imports and Trade deficit are as under:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exports</td>
<td>314.42</td>
<td>258.72</td>
<td>265.04</td>
<td>2.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imports</td>
<td>450.21</td>
<td>375.25</td>
<td>383.41</td>
<td>2.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Deficit</td>
<td>135.79</td>
<td>116.53</td>
<td>118.37</td>
<td>1.57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(P-Provisional)

During 2014-15 (April-January) (Provisional) India’s exports were US $ 265.0 billion as against US $ 258.7 billion during corresponding period of 2013-14 (April-January), an increase of 2.44%, despite the slowdown of the pace of development in various economies of the World.

(c) Exports are supported through schemes of Foreign Trade Policy as well as various promotional schemes of concerned Ministries/Departments. The schemes of Foreign Trade Policy are Focus Market Scheme, Market Linked Focus Product Scheme, Focus Product Scheme and Duty Drawback Scheme. Exporters can also avail duty free import of capital Goods under EPCG Scheme and raw materials under Advance Authorisation Scheme. The Government of India continuously monitors the export performance of different sectors and takes need based measures from time to time, keeping in view the financial and overall economic implications.
(d) Although, during the period 2014-15, (Apr-Jan), exports have increased moderately (2.44%), the imports have also not increased much (2.17) %. As a result trade deficit during the period has increased by only 1.57 % during the same period. The Current Account deficit, which is the difference between the inflow and outflow of foreign exchange, is currently (2014-15) placed at 1.3 per cent of GDP, whereas it was 1.7 per cent of GDP in 2013-14.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 968
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH MARCH, 2015

DECLINE IN EXPORT OF LEATHER PRODUCTS

968. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether it is a fact that there is a sharp decline in the export of leather products from the country;
b) whether it is also a fact that the decrease in leather exports is due to various environmental laws and other issues;
c) whether Government has formulated any policy or revival plan for leather industry; and
d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. Export of leather products from the country has increased from USD 5015.41 million in 2012-13 to USD 5908.82 million in 2013-14 showing an increase of 17.81 %. A positive growth of 14.04% has been registered in the export of leather and leather products during the period April, 2014 – January, 2015 (USD 5628.50 million) as compared to the corresponding period April, 2013 – January, 2014 (USD 4935.43 million).

(c) & (d) Since, there is no decline in export of leather products from India, the question of revival plan doesn’t arise. However, to further boost export of leather and leather products from India, Leather Sector has been included as one of the Focus Sectors under ‘Make-in-India’ programme launched by the Government which includes short term and medium term initiatives like scaling up of availability of finished leather, skilled manpower and establishment of a technology mission. The Government has adopted various measures under Foreign Trade Policy 2009-14 such as i) 4% Duty credit scrip under Focus Product Scheme for notified leather products and footwear, ii) 2% Duty Credit Scrip for Finished Leather under Focus Product Scheme, iii) Duty free import entitlement of specified items @ 3% of FOB value of exports realized during the preceding financial year, iv) Zero Duty Scheme implemented under Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme (EPCG), v) 1% Duty Credit Scrip under Status Holders Incentive Scrip (SHIS) scheme for leather sector (excluding tanning sector) for import of Capital Goods, vi) Recognition of Kanpur, Ambur and Agra as “Towns of Export Excellence” for leather products and vii) Implementation of Incremental Exports Incentivization Scheme. Assistance is also being provided to the Leather Sector under Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDP), Market Access
Initiative (MAI) and Market Development Assistance (MDA) schemes of Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 969
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH MARCH, 2015

DECLINE IN EXPORT OF TEA

969. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether it is a fact that tea exports declined in value and volume terms during January-November, 2014 as compared to the same period in 2013;
b) if so, the reasons therefor;
c) whether it is also a fact that India is facing stiff competition from Kenya and Sri Lanka with regard to export of tea; and
d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The decline in exports during January-November, 2014 is attributable, inter alia, to loss of Assam Orthodox tea production to the tune of almost 20 million kg. during May-July, 2014 caused by delayed rains, lower demand in the high-value markets such as USA, Iran and Russia, lower prices of teas from Africa at USD 2 per kg. in the international market, and decrease in demand from Bangladesh due to re-imposition of tariff with effect from April, 2014. Notably, India ranks second in world production of tea and fourth in the world market as tea exporting country.

(c) & (d): Kenya and Sri Lanka have emerged as important exporters of tea in the international market. Africa, particularly Kenya has had record output for consecutive two years as a result of which the prices of African tea have declined by almost USD 1 per kg. and the teas from Africa are being sold at an average price of USD 2 per kg. in the international market. Sri Lanka has also gained markets by providing attractive credit terms to its buyers. Kenya, producer of Crush, Tear and Curl (CTC) tea and Sri Lanka, producer mainly of Orthodox Tea have low domestic demand of tea and are largely dependent on tea exports whereas the domestic demand of tea in India is continuously increasing.

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 971
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH MARCH, 2015

IMPACT OF IMPORT OF RUBBER

971. SHRI P. RAJEEVE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) the quantum of rubber imported in India during last three years;
b) whether this import has created crisis for domestic production;
c) if so, the details thereof, and the steps taken by Government to address this issue;
d) whether Government proposes to impose restrictions or increase tariff on import of rubber; and
e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a): The quantity of natural rubber (NR) imported in to India during the last three years is as under:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Quantity in Tonne</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>214,433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>262,753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>360,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15 (Upto January 2015)</td>
<td>359,857</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) & (c): Natural rubber is imported because of domestic production falling short of total consumption by the domestic industry. While the domestic prices of rubber have fallen during the last year, partly due to the impact of low rubber prices in the international market, the domestic prices of NR have continued to be higher than the international price of NR. The details in this regard are given below:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sheet rubber</th>
<th>Block rubber</th>
<th>Latex (60% drc)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Domestic (RSS 4 Kottayam)</td>
<td>Intl (RSS Bangkok)</td>
<td>Domestic (ISNR 20 Kottayam)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>114.98</td>
<td>111.13</td>
<td>107.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>190.03</td>
<td>195.55</td>
<td>179.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Sheet rubber</td>
<td>Block rubber</td>
<td>Latex (60% drc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
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<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Domestic</td>
<td>Intl</td>
<td>Domestic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(RSS 4 Kottayam)</td>
<td>(RSS 3 Bangkok)</td>
<td>(ISNR 20 Kottayam)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>208.05</td>
<td>209.15</td>
<td>201.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>176.82</td>
<td>175.76</td>
<td>168.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>166.02</td>
<td>155.25</td>
<td>156.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec.2014</td>
<td>119.82</td>
<td>102.28</td>
<td>100.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th Feb 2015</td>
<td>138.25</td>
<td>115.21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Government has taken steps to regulate imports by increasing the duty on import of dry rubber from “20% or Rs. 20 per kg whichever is lower” to “20% or Rs. 30 per kg whichever is lower” from 20 December 2013. Monthly price of RSS4 grade rubber have stated increasing from December 2014. Government has also reduced the period of utilization under advance licensing scheme for import of rubber from 18 months to 6 months. An ‘Expert Committee’ consisting of representatives from rubber producers/growers, state governments, rubber consumers and user industry, central government and other stakeholders is functioning to examine issues related to rubber production, development, consumption and exports and suggest a ‘National Policy on Rubber’.

(d) & (e): Department of Commerce has advised the Department of Revenue on 10.12.2014 to enhance/revise import duty on dry forms of Natural Rubber (HS 400121, 400122, 400129) from existing 20% or Rs. 30 per kg whichever is lower to 25% vide this department’s OM dated 10.12.2014.

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 972
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH MARCH, 2015

LIFTING OF BAN BY EU ON IMPORT OF MANGO FROM INDIA

972(H). SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether it is a fact that the ban on import of mango from India has been lifted by the European Union (EU) after improvement in plant health controls;
b) if so, the details thereof;
c) the amount likely to be earned therefrom and whether import of vegetables from India is still banned; and
d) if so, the steps taken by Government to lift the restriction on import of vegetables from India?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

a) Yes.
b) The European Commission has notified lifting of the ban on mango through Commission Implementing Decision no. 2015/237 of 12th Feb, 2015.
c) Indian export of mango to the EU during 2012 and 2013 were valued at US$ 6.73 million and 10.09 million respectively. Ban on import of vegetables from India has not been lifted by EU.
d) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been developed by the Government for pest free export of fresh vegetables to EU wherein the vegetables are processed in pack houses approved by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the supervision of Plant Quarantine before export to EU.

************
MISSING FILES OF SEZs

974. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:
SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 47 files pertaining to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have gone missing from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether Government has inquired into the missing files and has fixed responsibility in this regard; and
(d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) to (d): The Comptroller and Auditor General of India in its Report for the year 2012-13 on Performance of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) has observed that 47 files were not produced to Audit. On scrutiny it has been found that all the files except five are available in the Department and were made available to the Audit. The remaining five files relating to Central Government SEZs, which are of 30-50 years old, are not available. As per record retention schedule of Department of Commerce, the retention period of these files has expired.

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 975
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH MARCH, 2015

APPROVAL OF SEZs

975. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) the State-wise number of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) formally approved by Government since their inception;
b) how many of these have become fully functional till date;
c) whether Government has gradually withdrawn concessions available to SEZs over the years;
d) if so, the details thereof; and
e) what is Government's policy at present for setting up of SEZs?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) & (b): In addition to Seven Central Government Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and 11 State/Private Sector SEZs set-up prior to the enactment of the SEZ Act, 2005, formal approval has been accorded to 491 proposals out of which 352 SEZs have been notified. Presently, a total of 199 SEZs are exporting. A list showing State-wise distribution of formally approved, notified and operational SEZs is at Annexure.

(c) & (d): Ministry of Finance has withdrawn the exemption from Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) to SEZ Developers and Units with effect from 1st April, 2012, and also the exemption of Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT) in the case of SEZ Developers under the Income-tax Act for dividends declared, distributed or paid after 1st June, 2011.

(e): As per the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005, a Special Economic Zones (SEZs) may be established either jointly or severally by the Central Government, State Governments or any person for manufacture of goods or rendering services or for both or as a Free Trade and Warehousing Zone. Proposals for setting up of SEZs are considered by the Board of Approval only after written consent of the concerned State Government. SEZs being set up under the Act are primarily private investment driven.

*****
## Annexure

### State-wise distribution of approved SEZs

(As on 2.3.2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States/UTs</th>
<th>Formal Approvals</th>
<th>Notified SEZs</th>
<th>Operational (Exporting) SEZs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chandigarh</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chhattisgarh</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goa</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jharkhand</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nagaland</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odisha</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puducherry</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telangana</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uttarakhand</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>491</strong></td>
<td><strong>352</strong></td>
<td><strong>199</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 982
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH MARCH, 2015

DECREASE IN EXPORT OF BASMATI RICE

982. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether it is a fact that export of Basmati rice has come down this year;
b) whether it is also a fact that sluggish demand from Iran is result of this trend;
c) if so, the reasons for low demand from Iran from 2012-13;
d) the steps Ministry is planning to take to boost Basmati exports;
e) the details of Basmati export to various other countries in the last three years, year-wise and country-wise; and
f) the details of competitors who are exporting Basmati rice?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) As per export data available from DGCI&S for the period April-December 2014 during the current year export value of Basmati rice is USD 3371.99 million as compared to USD 3464.74 million during the same period in the previous year, showing a decline of about 3%. The decline in quantity terms is about 6%, quantity of export being 25.72 lakh MT as compared to 27.41 lakh MT in the previous year.

(b & c) Yes, Sir. In Iran, import of rice is monitored through a system of issue of import permits. Due to excessive carry-over stocks from imports in previous year and domestic production in the current year, Iran has put a temporary ban on issue of permits for import of rice from all origins w.e.f. October 19, 2014.

(d) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), an Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India has been inter-alia, mandated to develop and promote the export of basmati rice. Government has also mandated APEDA to protect the Intellectual Property vested in basmati rice on behalf of all stakeholders. APEDA has taken following initiatives:

i) A world wide watch agency has been appointed since 1996 to monitor the trade mark registers worldwide for any third party attempt for registration of the name ‘basmati’ or any deceptive variations thereof.
ii) APEDA had applied to GI Registry in Chennai in November 2008 for registration of Basmati Rice as a GI.

iii) APEDA has established Basmati Export Development Foundation (BEDF). Under BEDF, state-of-art laboratory has been set up in the premises of S.V.B.P. University of Agriculture & Technology, Modipuram, and U.P. for quality testing and DNA profiling of Basmati Rice.

iv) Besides the laboratory, a Demonstration and Training Farm has been set up under BEDF over an area of about 10 acres for training the farmers in Good Practices for cultivation of Basmati Rice and Seed Production.

e) The details of Basmati export to various other countries (top ten) in the last three years, year-wise and country-wise are as under:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>2011-12 Quantity</th>
<th>2011-12 Value</th>
<th>2012-13 Quantity</th>
<th>2012-13 Value</th>
<th>2013-14 Quantity</th>
<th>2013-14 Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IRAN</td>
<td>614645</td>
<td>594.94</td>
<td>1082219</td>
<td>1187.23</td>
<td>1440454</td>
<td>1834.55</td>
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<td>SAUDI ARAB</td>
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<td>704.82</td>
<td>681193</td>
<td>672.64</td>
<td>826119</td>
<td>1108.90</td>
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<td>IRAQ</td>
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<td>137.55</td>
<td>204266</td>
<td>196.73</td>
<td>219605</td>
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<td>KUWAIT</td>
<td>199869</td>
<td>283.59</td>
<td>163317</td>
<td>194.73</td>
<td>175537</td>
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<tr>
<td>U ARAB EMTS</td>
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<td>234640</td>
<td>240.42</td>
<td>147903</td>
<td>196.51</td>
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<tr>
<td>YEMEN REPUBLIC</td>
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<td>172350</td>
<td>161.11</td>
<td>146840</td>
<td>183.94</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA</td>
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<td>104.69</td>
<td>91544</td>
<td>103.18</td>
<td>103391</td>
<td>143.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
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<td>130.24</td>
<td>192435</td>
<td>156.08</td>
<td>118852</td>
<td>130.73</td>
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<td>JORDAN</td>
<td>52932</td>
<td>49.64</td>
<td>89645</td>
<td>81.16</td>
<td>79094</td>
<td>102.39</td>
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<tr>
<td>OMAN</td>
<td>18292</td>
<td>19.71</td>
<td>40103</td>
<td>44.88</td>
<td>43145</td>
<td>58.63</td>
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<td>OTHER COUNTRIES</td>
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<td>389.16</td>
<td>508117</td>
<td>525.89</td>
<td>453162</td>
<td>586.29</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>3169446</strong></td>
<td><strong>3216.99</strong></td>
<td><strong>3459829</strong></td>
<td><strong>3564.04</strong></td>
<td><strong>3754102</strong></td>
<td><strong>4864.89</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DGCI&S

(f) Basmati rice is produced and exported only by Pakistan, other than India.