

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6243  
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2000  
EXPORT OF AGRO PRODUCTS  
SHRINWAS DADASAHEB PATIL

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

- (a) whether the chances of India benefitting by the world trade in agriculture have not seen to be very bright;
- (b) if so, the details of exports of potatoes, onions, and other perishable items made by the Government during each of the last three years, country-wise;
- (c) whether the Government have removed curbs on export of edible oil, onions, sugar and tomatoes keeping in view the interests of farmers and the nation;
- (d) if so, the reasons for declining the export of these items during the above period;
- (e) whether the Government have made any export oriented policy for exporting these items particularly processed food items to fetch good return as the Indian prices are far below in comparison to European Union nations; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) & (b) : The chances of India benefitting by the world trade in agriculture depend on prevailing international demand coinciding with domestic ability to supply, prevailing world prices of commodities, varieties being traded and consumer preferences. Exports of perishables such as fruits, vegetables and flowers for the last three years are as below:

Commodity

Value in Rs. Crores Vegetables Fruits Floriculture

1997-98	319.45	268.98	81.21
1998-99	274.86	260.04	97.22
1999-2000	222.34	191.93	63.71

(Apr.-Dec.)

Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta

Country-wise export details of the above mentioned agro-items are available in the monthly/annual number of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, the copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

(c) & (d) The current Export Policy Status of edible oil, onion, sugar and tomato is as below:-

Commodity Status Remarks

Edible oil Export of vegetable oils is free.  
Groundnut oil-in consumer packs above 5 Kgs.-Restricted.  
Export of groundnut oil permitted under licence only

Onion All varieties other than Bangalore rose and Krishnapuram onions canalized.

A total quantity of 50,000 MTs of all varieties of onion shall be allowed to be exported during April-May, 2000 through designated agencies.

Sugar Export restricted. Quantitative ceilings as may be notified by DGFT from time to time.

This licencing year 25,000 MTs of sugar in 2 Kg packs has been allowed besides export to EU and USA under preferential quota.

Tomato Export free

(e) & (f) Policy of exports of agriculture products forms an integral part of the Export-Import Policy of the country. The policy regarding exports of agricultural products is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximising farm incomes and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of agricultural products is an ongoing process and accordingly policy interventions are made, as and when considered necessary with a view to making agriculture exports increasingly viable. The details of the Export-Import Policy of Agricultural items is available in ITC(HS) Classifications of Exports and Import items published by Ministry of Commerce, copies of which are supplied to Parliament Library.