

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:929
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2003
EXPORT/IMPORT OF AGRO PRODUCTS
P. RAJENDRAN

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

- (a) the total foreign exchange earned from export during 2002-03 when compared to previous year;
- (b) the agro items on which export earnings have reduced;
- (c) whether the country's imports have registered a record 40% jump in April, 2003 and whereas the exports were sluggish;
- (d) if so, whether the export performance is in sharp contrast to the impressive 18.05% growth at \$51.7 billion posted during 2002-03;
- (e) if so, the main reasons for the same;
- (f) whether the Government are considering to provide farm regime to push up agri exports; and
- (g) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to push up the agri exports?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

- (a) The total foreign exchange earnings from export during 2002-03 was US \$52.23 billion as compared to US \$43.83 billion in 2001-02.
- (b) The total agro export increased by US\$443.58 million in 2002-03 as compared to 2001-02. Most agro items show an increase in earnings and some important agro items for which export earnings have reduced in 2002-03 as compared to the previous year are Basmati rice, Sesame Seeds, Oil meals, Sugar & Pulses.
- (c) to (e) No sir. Though imports grew by 39% in April 2003, during April - May, 2003 they grew only by 19.55% compared to the corresponding period last year. Exports during April-May, 2003-04 grew by 11.12% which is over the 18.27% achieved in April-May, 2002-03 over 2001-02. In fact the growth rate of exports in May, 2003 was 13.53%. Thus exports are near the target of 12% fixed for 2003-04. This is despite the Iraq war and SARS which has affected exports globally.
- (f) & (g) To promote agricultural exports in the world market, the Government provides a variety of incentives in the form of financial and other assistance through its different agencies for infrastructure development, modern packaging units, quality control, market development and creation of Agri export zones (AEZs).