

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2024  
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2003  
AGRI-EXPORT ZONES  
A. VENKATESH NAIK

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a number of Agri-Export Zones set up in the country with a view of promoting agricultural exports have not become functional so far;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of proposals received for setting up more agri-export zones and the number out of them sanctioned so far;
- (d) whether the market share in agricultural exports has decreased from 17.72% in 1998-99 to 12.61% in 2002-2003;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to increase agricultural exports?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): So far, the Union Government has sanctioned and notified 48 Agri Export Zones (AEZs) in 19 States in the country. In all the 48 cases, an MoU has been signed between Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and the concerned State Government for setting up the zones. The progress of work, in these zones is at various stages of completion.

(c): APEDA being a nodal agency of Central Government for monitoring of AEZs, has received 82 proposals till date. Out of these 82, 48 AEZs have already been sanctioned.

(d) & (e): Though the percentage share of agri exports in total exports has come down from 17.72% in 1998-99 to 12.61% in 2002-2003, the value of agricultural exports have increased from 25511 crores to Rs.31030 crores during the above period. The decrease in percentage share of agro exports to total exports is due to the higher growth rate in exports of other products.

(f): In order to boost the agro export, a number of measures have been initiated by the Government including infrastructure development, promotion of modern packaging units, quality improvement and quality control, market development and creation of Agriculture Export Zones among others.