

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:984

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2005

EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Barman Shri Ranen;McLeod Smt. Ingrid;Sugavanam Shri E.G.;Veerendra Kumar Shri M.P.;Yadav Shri Mitrasen

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

- (a) the details with regard to the agricultural products exported/imported by India from different countries;
- (b) the names of agricultural products exported from India at present;
- (c) whether the Government has abolished cess on agricultural and other products to boost farm export;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to attain self sufficiency in agricultural products;
- (e) whether the Government has appointed Agricultural Counsellors abroad to promote agricultural trade with major importing countries of agricultural products; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof, country-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

(a) & (b): Main agricultural products being exported from India are rice, wheat, meat, poultry & dairy products, fruits & vegetables, nuts & seeds, tobacco & its products, spices, oil-meals, processed food etc. Some of the major agricultural items being imported into the country are vegetable oils (edible), sugar, nuts & seeds including raw cashew nuts, pulses etc.

Product-wise/country-wise details of exports/imports are available in the 'Foreign Trade Statistics of India' compiled by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata.

(c) & (d): The Government has already approved a proposal for removal of export cess on agricultural commodities with the policy perspective that taxes and duties ought not to be exported. In this regard, a Bill for amending/repealing certain Acts/Rules, administered by the Department of Commerce, has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha.

Indian agriculture has taken rapid strides since 1951. The food grains production has increased from 50.82 million tones in 1951 to more than 212 million tones in 2003-04. The country has already graduated from food shortages and imports to self-sufficiency in food grains and its exports.

(e) & (f): In order to promote trade and to liaise with the international organizations like Food & Agriculture Organisation, European Commission, WTO etc., Government of India appoints its representatives/officials abroad designated as Adviser, Minister, Research Officer etc. Also, the Commercial Wings in all Indian Missions/Embassies abroad have been entrusted with the responsibility of promoting exports of Indian products including agricultural products.