

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4104
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2005
BLACKISTED EXPORT FIRMS
Pathak Shri Brajesh

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

- (a) the machinery available with the Government to keep check on the quality of goods meant for export;
- (b) whether complaints had been received about the inferior quality of the goods exported;
- (c) if so, the details of such cases for the last three years alongwith the action taken thereon; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to make the task of export inspection more effective?

Answer

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

(a) The quality of goods exported to various countries is regulated by the machinery set up under various Acts/Rules and notifications issued in respect of specified commodities. There is Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963 under which nearly 1000 commodities have been notified to conform to the laid down standards before the commodities are exported to other countries. This Act is administered by the Export Inspection Council of India with the help of Export Inspection Agencies and various field formations set up in various parts of the country. Similarly, machinery is also available under other important enactments/notifications e.g. Tea (Distribution and Export) Control Order, 2005 issued under Tea Act, 1953; the Spices Board (Registration of Exporters) Regulations, 1989; etc.

(b) A number of Rapid Alert Notifications have been received from various countries rejecting the consignments of food products indicating the presence of microbiological contamination, anti-biotic residues, heavy metals, bacterial inhibitors, Sudan 1 to 4 dyes in chilli and chilli products, aflatoxin, ochratoxin, pesticide residues, etc.

(c) As indicated in answer to part (b) of the Question, though there have been a number of cases of rejection of our various products, the details of consignments of marine products rejected for various reasons during the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 are 46, 25 and 38 respectively. In respect of marine products, whenever any quality complaint is received from an importing country, the Export Inspection Council of India and the Marine Product Export Development Authority carry out necessary investigations to find out the cause of contamination and take remedial action as per the prescribed procedure. The action includes suspension of a processing unit and withdrawal of approval for export.

(d) It has been the endeavour of the Government to continually improve the quality of products exported to various countries to ensure that not only the products exported are competitive in prices but are also not inferior in quality to the products available in the international market. The various steps taken by the Government during the recent years to improve the quality of products meant for exports are:-

(i) prescribing norms/quality of the products before the same are exported and setting up of machinery to ensure the same;

(ii) upgradation of existing laboratories to meet the quality inspection standards as per the international norms;

(iii) setting up of green field laboratories with latest equipments to enable the inspecting agencies to test the products as per the international norms and to facilitate easy access to the exporters for quality inspection of their products nearby and at reasonable cost;

(iv) gearing up the already existing machinery in Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Export Inspection Council/Agencies, Coffee Board, Tea Board, Rubber Board, Spices Board, etc. to ensure that the processors/exporters are appropriately apprised of the quality requirement by the importers, continually update the knowledge of their technical and inspection officials, making available state-of-the-art laboratories for testing, etc.