

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1720
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2006
EXPORT OF BASMATI RICE
Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman;Singh Shri Mohan

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

- (a) the export of Basmati Rice during 2005-06 alongwith foreign exchange earned therefrom;
- (b) the India`s share of export of Basmati Rice in world market;
- (c) whether exporters have requested the Government to notify Basmati as `Super Quality` in order to boost rice exports and counter Pakistan in international market;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to increase export of Basmati Rice and its share in world market?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

- (a) During 2005-06 (April-November), Basmati rice exports were 6.5 lakh tonnes and the foreign exchange earned was US\$ 396 Million.
- (b) India`s share in world market for basmati rice is about 53%.
- (c)&(d) Yes sir. The rice exporters have requested the Government for notification of `Super` variety of rice as `Basmati` rice. The request has been examined and recommended to Department of Agriculture & Cooperation for necessary Notification under the Seeds Act 1966.
- (e) The steps being taken by the Government to increase export of Basmati rice include providing assistance to Indian exporters for undertaking publicity campaign, mounting trade delegations abroad, participation in international fairs, buyer-seller meets and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging and brand promotion.