

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *318
ANSWERED ON 17/12/2024

EXPORT POLICY FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

*318. SHRI RAJABHAU PARAG PRAKASH WAJE:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY**(वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the frequent changes in the export policy for grapes, onions and pomegranates and its impact on farmers and exporters;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the frequent changes in the export policy for these products, and the measures being taken to provide a predictable and consistent policy framework;
- (c) the details of the export incentives, procedures, and regulations governing the export of grapes, onions and pomegranates and whether these are being reviewed to simplify and streamline the export process;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to provide stable export incentives, simplify export procedures and reduce the time and cost of exporting agricultural products, particularly for farmers and exporters in Nashik district, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of steps taken/being taken by the Government to promote the export of grapes, onions and pomegranates and to increase India's foreign exchange earnings from the export of these products?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय में मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)
THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PART (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 318 FOR ANSWER ON 17th DECEMBER, 2024
REGARDING “EXPORT POLICY FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS”**

(a) & (b) The export policy on grapes and pomegranates has not been subject to frequent changes. In case of onions, whenever there is tight domestic supply conditions, to ensure availability for domestic consumers at reasonable prices, Government had placed restrictions on exports till the supply situation has eased. In 2024, on 22nd March, export of onions was prohibited by the Government. Subsequently, on 4th May 2024, the export policy was amended to facilitate exports with a floor price of \$550 per MT and an additional 40% export duty. Thereafter, on 13th September 2024, the Government removed the floor price on onions and reduced the export duty from 40 percent to 20 percent.

Further, the policy interventions for maintaining domestic availability at reasonable prices are deliberated and decision taken through well-established institutional mechanism which has representation from major stakeholder from Departments/Ministries. The underlying objectives of the policy interventions are also to ensure fair prices to farmers and opportunities to exporters when there is an excess of supply over demand.

(c) to (e) In general, the Phytosanitary requirements and regulations laid down by the importing countries are required to be complied by exporters for the export of horticulture products, including grapes, onions and pomegranates. There is no stipulated procedure for export of grapes, pomegranates and onions except for grapes exports destined to EU. The export procedure for grapes destined to EU has been developed and is being implemented to comply with the residue limits stipulated by the EU and to avoid possibility of border rejections. To implement the above procedure, a web-based Traceability system, Grapenet has been developed and implemented by Agricultural Products Exports Development Authority (APEDA) covering the farms, pack houses, laboratories etc. The system enables seamless processing of each activity for sourcing, processing, packing, analysis and dispatch of consignment for exporters. There is no user charge levied by APEDA for registration of farmers in the traceability system.

With respect to export incentives, all members of the World Trade Organisation including India are committed to not providing any export subsidies to agricultural commodities after December 2023, including subsidies on grapes, pomegranates, and onions. This includes any subsidies for marketing and transportation of goods.

To increase the productivity and output of its Scheduled products, including grapes, onions and pomegranates from across India, including from Nashik, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Department of Commerce, provides financial assistance through its Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS). The scheme has the following components:

- i. Development of Export Infrastructure
- ii. Quality Development
- iii. Market Development

Specifically, for increasing productivity and output of perishable products like fruits and vegetables, including grapes, pomegranates, and onions, financial assistance under the scheme is

being provided for development of post-harvest handling facilities and developing cold chain network in the form of integrated pack houses, reefer vehicles and in-house testing facilities. Treatment facilities like Vapour Heat Treatment (VHT), Hot Water Treatment (HWT) etc. are also being established under this scheme to mitigate the infestation/incidence of pests in specific fruits and vegetables.

The Government is focusing on strategic development of the sea protocols for various perishable products which enables higher volumes of fresh fruits and vegetables to long distance markets at more competitive prices. Under this, sea protocol development for Pomegranates is being carried out in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Research Centre on Pomegranate (ICAR-NRC) Solapur, which once developed and mainstreamed will benefit the farmers of Pomegranates, including those from Nashik.

Department of Commerce, through APEDA facilitates the participation of its member producers, including from Nashik, in International Trade Fairs including the events exclusively organized for fruits and vegetables such as Asia Fruit Logistica (Hong Kong), MACFRUIT Italy etc. Further, campaign in print/electronic media for promotion and branding of Indian fruits and vegetables in key international markets during prominent trade fairs has been initiated in collaboration with India Brand Equity Foundation.
