

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 405
ANSWERED ON 04/02/2025

IMPACT OF EXPORT POLICY

405. 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; and
- (d) the steps 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 राज्य मंत्री (श्री जितिन प्रसाद)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) & (b) The export policy on grapes and pomegranates has not been subject to frequent changes. In case of onions, whenever there are tight domestic supply conditions, to ensure food security, government has 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 Departments. 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 (d) 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 and Processed Food 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 promote the export of its Scheduled products, including grapes, onions and pomegranates from across India, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Department of Commerce, provides financial assistance to its registered exporters through its Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS). The scheme has the following components:

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

The details of financial assistance guidelines are available at APEDA Website www.apeda.gov.in under the “Scheme” tab.

Specifically, for export promotion of perishable products like fruits and vegetables, including grapes, pomegranates, and onions, assistance 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 export of higher volumes of fresh fruits and vegetables to long distance markets at more competitive prices. Under this, sea protocol development for export of Pomegranates is being carried out in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Research Centre (ICAR-NRC) Solapur on Pomegranate, which once developed and mainstreamed will benefit the farmers and exporters of Pomegranates.

Department of Commerce, through APEDA facilitates the participation of its member exporters, 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.
