

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 234
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th MARCH, 2021

AYUSH EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

*234. SHRI RANJEETSINGH HINDURAO NAIK NIMBALKAR:
SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to set up an AYUSH Export Promotion Council;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for standardization of HS Code for AYUSH to achieve price and quality competitiveness to boost AYUSH exports?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 234 FOR ANSWER ON 10th MARCH, 2021
REGARDING “AYUSH EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL”.**

(a) & (b) Ministry of AYUSH is currently holding stakeholder consultations to explore setting up an AYUSH Export Promotion Council (EPC). The procedural steps involved in setting up the EPC are being taken up. Ministry of AYUSH has informed that Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has been tasked with coordinating with Department of Commerce and the Indian Industry members who are interested in forming the corpus of an AYUSH Export Promotion Council.

(c) Most of the products of Ayurveda, Homoeopathic, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Unani systems, Herbal Products and Medicinal Plant products are not identified under specific HS Codes (International Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System). At present, they are spread over several HS chapters, viz., Chapters 12, 13, 14, 17, 30 and 33 in general. The recommendations of the Task Force set up by the Ministry of AYUSH on expanding trade classification, quality control and standardization of Indian Systems of Medicine (ISM) and Herbal Products are under examination of the Government.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2540 (H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th MARCH, 2021

EXPORT AND PRODUCTION OF RICE

2540 (H). SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:

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

- (a) the country-wise details of rice exported during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether the rice production has decreased during the said period;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the rice production and its export?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

(a) : The country-wise detail of exports of Rice (basmati) and Rice (other than basmati) during last three years and current year is at **Annexure-I** and **Annexure-II** respectively.

(b) & (c): The production of rice during last three years and current year are as follows, which shows an increasing trend:

(Quantity in Lakh MT)

Crop	Season	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (2nd Advance Estimates as on 24-02-2021)
Rice	Kharif	971.4	1020.4	1022.8	1037.5
	Rabi	156.2	144.4	165.9	165.7
	Total	1127.6	1164.8	1188.7	1203.2

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

(d): National Food Security Mission (NFSM) was launched to increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses through area expansion and productivity enhancement, restoring soil fertility and productivity, improvement in cropping system, distributing of seeds of high yielding varieties, optimising use of farm machineries/resources, water application tools, plant protection measures, nutrient management/soil ameliorants, cropping system based trainings to the farmers etc.

The promotion of exports of agricultural commodities including rice is a continuous process. A comprehensive "Agriculture Export Policy" to provide an impetus to agricultural exports including Rice is under implementation since December 2018. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), an autonomous organization under the administrative control of the Department of Commerce, has the mandate to promote exports of agricultural and processed food products, including rice. APEDA provides assistance to the exporters of agricultural and processed food products, including rice, under various components of its Scheme "Agricultural and Processed Food Export Promotion Scheme of APEDA" such as Infrastructure Development, Quality Development and Market Development. Assistance is also provided to exporters/ State Governments under other Schemes of the Department of Commerce.

Statement referred to in reply of part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred question no. 2540 for answer on 10th March 2021

India's export of Rice-Basmati to Top 30 countries

Value in US\$ millions

S. No.	Countries	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (Apr-Jan) *
1	Saudi Arab	829.61	938.91	955.89	737.18
2	Iran	904.73	1556.17	1246.02	476.35
3	Iraq	435.52	399.43	433.92	397.59
4	Yemen Republc	161.04	209.95	195.65	230.85
5	U S A	149.01	168.74	181.26	171.13
6	U Arab Emts	437.66	297.62	209.17	170.34
7	Kuwait	177.91	177.11	201.05	136.85
8	U K	159.17	106.08	103.79	120.75
9	Qatar	82.08	76.08	64.95	85.42
10	Oman	89.64	96.61	75.87	74.20
11	Canada	47.87	53.46	61.33	62.31
12	Australia	39.80	46.67	51.99	58.43
13	Netherland	63.26	38.97	45.07	57.34
14	Jordan	52.73	52.57	67.25	55.27
15	Israel	38.45	46.11	43.00	41.07
16	Malaysia	32.97	24.60	34.45	31.44
17	Baharain Is	34.58	37.79	32.45	30.94
18	Mauritius	36.48	36.87	30.64	28.25
19	Turkey	51.64	40.82	33.26	24.68
20	Egypt A Rp	13.22	16.81	20.98	20.11
21	Italy	42.55	16.90	13.21	16.58
22	South Africa	16.38	18.59	19.03	15.19
23	Germany	13.96	11.73	13.49	13.20
24	Azerbaijan	5.20	12.51	15.53	12.13
25	Singapore	15.04	15.39	14.57	11.22
26	Syria	14.29	19.40	19.57	11.10
27	Afghanistan	0.00	0.18	0.46	10.98
28	Algeria	6.86	9.41	12.61	9.47
29	Reunion	10.59	10.55	9.45	8.33
30	Ethiopia	4.72	9.10	6.93	8.13
Total export to above countries		3966.99	4545.11	4212.83	3126.83
% Share of above		95.14	96.45	96.36	95.70
Total export of Rice Basmati		4169.56	4712.44	4372.00	3267.18

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata (*: Provisional)

Statement referred to in reply of part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred question no. 2540 for answer on 10th March 2021

India's export of Rice-Other than Basmati to Top 30 countries

Value in US\$ millions

S. No.	Countries	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (Apr-Jan) *
1	Benin	314.19	264.16	195.90	353.44
2	Nepal	240.40	281.15	245.30	319.64
3	Togo	47.98	93.18	107.90	257.56
4	Cote D' Ivoire	148.95	163.17	107.70	196.97
5	Guinea	173.81	175.93	120.41	191.09
6	Senegal	263.22	220.83	67.49	183.78
7	Malaysia	6.09	13.77	28.62	135.59
8	U Arab Emts	149.21	147.69	130.92	118.85
9	Somalia	125.38	120.89	122.95	117.03
10	Madagascar	65.16	48.96	3.69	111.34
11	Iraq	50.20	36.53	50.33	108.81
12	Liberia	100.20	116.97	79.94	105.45
13	Djibouti	80.19	90.70	69.04	96.58
14	Saudi Arab	73.38	98.29	62.08	88.11
15	South Africa	55.08	54.35	51.90	76.88
16	Bangladesh PR	835.39	219.35	12.12	63.85
17	Mozambique	0.80	3.90	4.51	55.04
18	Russia	22.33	28.16	35.03	45.17
19	Cameroon	19.02	2.37	3.49	44.43
20	Kenya	5.28	12.18	3.41	43.31
21	U S A	33.28	34.49	31.36	41.44
22	Singapore	35.74	32.86	41.01	40.55
23	Algeria	11.64	22.43	18.66	39.44
24	Qatar	54.05	53.25	45.54	39.11
25	Vietnam Soc Rep	2.45	2.18	0.78	35.44
26	Oman	34.88	38.41	28.69	34.69
27	Yemen Republic	52.00	45.42	24.76	33.27
28	Angola	6.42	13.12	13.62	29.45
29	Philippines	15.62	57.79	16.98	27.47
30	China P Rp	0.05	0.97	0.78	26.93
Total export to above countries		3022.41	2493.45	1724.94	3060.71
% Share of above		83.11	82.07	84.92	87.31
Total export of Rice (Other than Basmati)		3636.60	3038.16	2031.25	3505.73

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata (*: Provisional)

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2560
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th MARCH, 2021

EPZs AND AEZs

2560. SHRI MANOJ KOTAK:

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

- (a) the details and total number of Export Processing Zones (EPZs) and Agricultural Export Zones (AEZs) which have been set up in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the details of the incentives that have been provided by the Government to the EPZs and AEZs;
- (c) whether there are EPZs which have been set up to promote agricultural activities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

(a): Export Processing Zones (EPZs) were converted into Special Economic Zones (SEZs) with the enactment of SEZ Act 2005 and SEZ Rules 2006. There were 7 Central Government Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and 12 State/Private Sector SEZs prior to the enactment of the SEZs Act, 2005. In addition, 425 proposals for setting up of SEZs in the country have been accorded formal approval under the SEZ Act, 2005. Presently, 378 SEZs are notified, out of which 265 are operational. States/Union Territories-wise details of SEZs is at **Annexure-I**.

Further, 60 Agri Export Zones (AEZs) were notified in the year 2001 under Chapter 16 of the then EXIM Policy. List of these notified AEZs is at **Annexure-II**. All the 60 AEZs have completed their intended span of 5 years.

(b): SEZ Developers and units are granted fiscal and non-fiscal incentives. The fiscal incentives are in the nature of tax exemptions as per provisions of the SEZ Act, 2005. The fiscal incentives allowed to SEZ developers are as follows:

- i. Duty free import/domestic procurement of goods & services for development of SEZs.
- ii. Income Tax exemption on income derived from the business of development of the SEZ under Section 80-IAB of the Income Tax Act, for any 10 consecutive assessment years out of 15 years beginning from the year in which SEZ has been notified (**Sunset Clause for Developers has become effective from 01.04.2017**).

The fiscal incentives allowed to SEZ units are as follows:

- i. Duty free import/domestic procurement of goods and services for SEZ units.
- ii. 100% Income Tax exemption on export income for SEZ units under Section 10AA of the Income Tax Act for first 5 years, 50% for next 5 years thereafter and 50% of the ploughed back export profit for next 5 years. (**Sunset Clause for Units is effective from 01.04.2020**).
- iii. Exemption of some taxes like stamp duty, electricity duty etc. as imposed by respective State Governments.

The non-fiscal incentives allowed to SEZ units and Developers are as follows.

- i. Single window clearance for Central and State level approvals.
- ii. Dedicated customs wing for faster clearance.
- iii. SEZ units are allowed to deal with restricted/prohibited items subject to approval of BoA.

(c) and (d): Yes Sir, 8 Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been approved for the Agro and Food Processing sector in India. Of these 8 SEZs, 7 have been notified and 4 are operational. A statement showing details of Agro and Food Processing SEZs in India is at **Annexure-III**.

Annexure-I to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2560 for 10th March, 2021

States/Union Territories-wise distribution of approved SEZs					
States/UTs	Central Government SEZs set up prior to the enactment of SEZs Act, 2005	State Government/ Private Sector SEZs set up prior to the enactment of SEZs Act, 2005	Formal Approvals granted under the SEZs Act, 2005	Notified SEZs under the SEZ Act, 2005	Total Operational SEZs (Including prior to SEZs Act + under the SEZs Act, 2005)
Andhra Pradesh	1	0	32	27	24
Chandigarh	0	0	2	2	2
Chhattisgarh	0	0	2	1	1
Delhi	0	0	2	0	0
Goa	0	0	7	3	0
Gujarat	1	2	26	22	21
Haryana	0	0	25	22	7
Jharkhand	0	0	2	2	0
Karnataka	0	0	63	52	34
Kerala	1	0	29	25	20
Madhya Pradesh	0	1	12	7	5
Maharashtra	1	0	51	45	37
Manipur	0	0	1	1	0
Nagaland	0	0	2	2	0
Odisha	0	0	7	5	5
Puducherry	0	0	1	0	0
Punjab	0	0	5	3	3
Rajasthan	0	2	5	4	3
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	1	4	56	53	48
Telangana	0	0	63	56	34
Tripura	0	0	1	1	0
Uttar Pradesh	1	1	24	21	14
West Bengal	1	2	7	5	7
GRAND TOTAL	7	12	425	359	265

Annexure-II to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2560 for 10th March, 2021

LIST OF NOTIFIED 60 AGRI EXPORT ZONES				
Sl. No.	State		AEZ Project	Districts / Area
1	West Bengal	1	Pineapple	Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Uttar Dinajpur, Cooch Behar, Howrah
		2	Lychee	Murshidabad, Malda, 24 Pargana(N) and 24 Pargana(S)
		3	Potatoes	Hooghly, Burdwan, Midnapore (W), Uday Narayanpur, Howrah
		4	Mango	Maldah and Murshidabad
		5	Vegetables	Nadia, Murshidabad and North 24 Parganas
		6	Darjeeling Tea	Darjeeling
2	Karnataka	7	Gherkins	Tumkur, Bangalore Urban, Bangalore Rural, Hassan, Kolar, Chitradurga, Dharwad and Bagalkot
		8	Rose Onion	Bangalore (Urban), Bangalore (Rural), Kolar
		9	Flowers	Bangalore (Urban), Bangalore (Rural), Kolar, Tumkur, Kodagu and Belgaum
		10	Vanilla	Districts of Dakshin Kannada, Uttara Kannada, Udupi, Shimoga, Kodagu, Chickamagalur
3	Uttaranchal	11	Lychees	Udhamsingh Nagar, Dehradun and Nainital
		12	Flowers	Dehradun, Pantnagar, Udhamsingh Nagar, Nainital and Uttarkashi
		13	Basmati Rice	Udham Singh Nagar, Nainital, Dehradun and Haridwar
		14	Medicinal & Aromatic Plants	Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Pithoragarh, Dehradun, Nainital, Haridwar and Udhamsingh Nagar
4	Punjab	15	Vegetables (Cabbage Broccoli, Okra, Peas, Carrot, Baby Corn, Green Chillies, Green Beans, Tomato)	Fatehgarh Sahib, Patiala, Sangrur, Ludhiana and Ropar
		16	Potatoes	Singhpura, Zirakpur Distt. Patiala and satellite centres at Rampura Phul, Muktsar, Ludhiana, Jullundur
		17	Basmati Rice	Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur & Nawanshahar
5	Uttar Pradesh	18	Potatoes	Agra, Hathras, Farrukhabad, Kannoj, Meerut, Baghpat and Aligarh, Janpad Badaiyun, Rampur, Ghaziabad, and Firozabad
		19	Mangoes and Vegetables	Lucknow, Unnao, Hardoi, Sitapur and Barabanki
		20	Mangoes	Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Bijnaur, Meerut, Baghpat and Bulandshahr, Jyotifulenagar
		21	Basmati Rice	Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Pilibhit, Rampur, Badaun, Bijnor, Moradabad, JB Phulenagar, Sharanpur, Mujjafarnagar, Meerut, Bulandshahr, Ghaziabad And Baghpat

6	Maharashtra	22	Grape & Grapevine	Nasik, Sangli, Sholapur, Satara, Ahmednagar
		23	Mangoes	Rantagiri, Sindhudurg, Raigarh and Thane
		24	Kesar mango	Aurangabad, Beed, Jalna, Ahmednagar and Latur
		25	Flowers	Pune, Nasik, Kolhapur and Sangli
		26	Onion	Nasik, Ahmednagar, Pune, Satara, Jalgaon, Solapur
		27	Pomegranate	Districts of Solapur, Sangli, Ahmednagar, Pune, Nasik, Osmanabad & Latur
		28	Banana	Jalgaon, Dhule, Nandurbar, Buldhana, Parbhani, Hindoli, Nanded and Wardha
		29	Oranges	Nagpur and Amraoti
7	Andhra Pradesh	30	Mango Pulp & Fresh Vegetables	Chittoor
		31	Mango & Grapes	Rangareddy, Medak, Mehboobnagar
		32	Mangoes	Krishna
		33	<i>Gherkins</i>	Districts of Mahboobnagar, Rangareddy, Medak, Karimnagar, Warangal, Ananthapur and Nalgonda
		34	Chilli	Guntur
8	Jammu & Kashmir	35	Apples	Srinagar, Baramula, Anantnag, Kupwara, Kathua and Pulwama
		36	Walnut	Baramulla, Anantnag, Pulwama, Budgam, Kupwara, Srinagar, Doda, Poonch, Udhampur, Rajouri and Kathua
9	<i>Tripura</i>	37	Pineapple	Kumarghat, Manu, Melaghar, Matabari and Kakraban Blocks
10	Madhya Pradesh	38	Potatoes, Onion and Garlic	Malwa, Ujjain, Indore, Dewas, Dhar, Shajapur, Ratlam, Neemuch Mandsaur and Khandwa
		39	Seed Spices	Guna, Mandsaur, Ujjain, Rajgarh, Ratlam, Shajapur and Neemuch
		40	Wheat (including sharbati wheat for Bhopal Zone)	Ujjain Zone (Neemuch, Ratlam, Mandsaur and Ujjain), Indore Zone (Indore, Dhar, Shajapur and Dewas) and Bhopal Zone (Sehore, Vidisha, Raisen, Hoshangabad, Harda, Narsinghpur and Bhopal)
		41	Lentil and Grams	Shivpuri, Guna, Vidisha, Raisen, Narsinghpura, Chhindwara
		42	Oranges	Chhindwara. Jpsjamgabad. Betul
11	Tamil Nadu	43	Cut Flowers	Dharmapuri
		44	Flowers	Nilgiri
		45	Mangoes	Districts of Madurai, Theni, Dindigul, Virudhunagar and Tirunelveli
		46	<i>Cashewnut</i>	Cuddalore, Thanjavur, Pudukottai and Sivaganga
12	Bihar	47	Lychee, Vegetables & Honey	Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Hajipur, Vaishali, East and West Champaran, Bhagalpur, Begu Sarai, Khagaria, Sitamarhi, Saran and Gopalganj
13	<i>Gujarat</i>	48	Mangoes & Vegetables	Ahmedabad, Khaida, Anand, Vadodara, Surat, Navsari, Valsad, Bharuch, Narmada
		49	Value Added Onion	Districts of Bhavnagar, Surendranagar, Amreli, Rajkot, Junagadh and Jamnagar Districts
		50	Sesame Seeds	Amerali, Bhavnagar, Surendranagar, Rajkot, Jamnagar

14	Sikkim	51	Flowers (Orchids)& Cherry Pepper	East Sikkim
		52	Ginger	North, East, South & West Sikkim
15	Himachal Pradesh	53	Apples	Shimla, Sirmaur, Kullu, Mandi, Chamba and Kinnaur
16	Orissa	54	Ginger and Turmeric	Kandhamal
17	Jharkhand	55	Vegetables	Ranchi, Hazaribagh and Lohardaga
18	Kerala	56	Horticulture Products	Thrissur, Ernakulam, Kottayam, Alapuzha, Pathanamthitta, Kollam, Thiruvanthapuram, Idukki and Pallakad
		57	Medicinal Plant	Wayanad, Mallapuram, Palakkad, Thrissur, Ernakulam, Idukki, Kollam, Pathanamittha, Thiruvananthapuram
19	Assam	58	Fresh and Processed Ginger	Kamrup, Nalbari, Barpeta, Darrang, Nagaon, Morigaon, Karbi Anglong and North Cachar
20	Rajasthan	59	Coriander	Kota, Bundi, Baran, Jhalawar & Chittoor
		60	Cumin	Nagaur, Barmer, Jalore, Pali and Jodhpur

Annexure-III to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2560 for 10th March, 2021

List of Agro and Food Processing SEZs in India			
Sl. No.	Name of the developer	Location	SEZ status
1	Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA)	Malappuram District, Kerala	Notified and Operational
2	Parry Infrastructure Company Private Limited	Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh	Notified and Operational
3	CCCL Pearl City Food Port SEZ Ltd.	Tuticorin District, Tamil Nadu	Notified and Operational
4	CCL Products (India) Limited	Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh	Notified and Operational
5	Nagaland Industrial Development Corporation Limited	Dimapur, Nagaland	Notified
6	Ansal Colours Engineering SEZ Limited	Sonepat, Haryana	Notified
7	Tripura Industrial Development Corporation Limited	Paschim Jalefa, Sabroom, South Tripura District, Tripura	Notified
8	Akshaypatra Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.	Mehsana, Gujarat	Formal Approval

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2577 (H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th MARCH, 2021

RICE EXPORT

2577 (H). SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE:

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

- (a) whether rice has been exported during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the year, country and category-wise details of the rice exported during the aforesaid period;
- (c) the details of the revenue earned from each category of rice exported during the said period;
- (d) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take any steps for the export of others category of rice besides Basmati rice; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

(a) to (c): The value of India's export of Rice-Basmati and Rice-Other than Basmati during last three years and current year is as follows:

Value in US\$ Million

Years	Export of Rice-Basmati	Export of Rice -Other Than Basmati	Total
2017-18	4169.56	3636.60	7806.16
2018-19	4712.44	3038.16	7750.6
2019-20	4372.00	2031.25	6403.25
2019-20 (April- January)*	3267.18	3505.73	6772.91

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata, * provisional

The top 30 country-wise value of exports of rice (basmati and other than basmati) during the last three years and current year is at **Annexure-I and Annexure-II** respectively.

(d) & (e): The promotion of exports of agricultural commodities including rice is a continuous process. A comprehensive "Agriculture Export Policy" to provide an impetus to agricultural exports including Rice is under implementation since December 2018. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), an autonomous organization under the administrative control of the Department of Commerce, has the mandate to promote exports of agricultural and processed food products, including rice. APEDA provides assistance to the exporters of agricultural and processed food products, including rice, under various components of its Scheme "Agricultural and Processed Food Export Promotion Scheme of APEDA" such as Infrastructure Development, Quality Development and Market Development. Assistance is also provided to exporters/ State Governments under other Schemes of the Department of Commerce.

Statement referred to in reply of part (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred question no. 2577 for answer on 10th March 2021

India's export of Rice-Basmati to Top 30 countries

Value in US\$ millions

S. No.	Countries	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (Apr-Jan) *
1	Saudi Arab	829.61	938.91	955.89	737.18
2	Iran	904.73	1556.17	1246.02	476.35
3	Iraq	435.52	399.43	433.92	397.59
4	Yemen Republc	161.04	209.95	195.65	230.85
5	U S A	149.01	168.74	181.26	171.13
6	U Arab Emts	437.66	297.62	209.17	170.34
7	Kuwait	177.91	177.11	201.05	136.85
8	U K	159.17	106.08	103.79	120.75
9	Qatar	82.08	76.08	64.95	85.42
10	Oman	89.64	96.61	75.87	74.20
11	Canada	47.87	53.46	61.33	62.31
12	Australia	39.80	46.67	51.99	58.43
13	Netherland	63.26	38.97	45.07	57.34
14	Jordan	52.73	52.57	67.25	55.27
15	Israel	38.45	46.11	43.00	41.07
16	Malaysia	32.97	24.60	34.45	31.44
17	Baharain Is	34.58	37.79	32.45	30.94
18	Mauritius	36.48	36.87	30.64	28.25
19	Turkey	51.64	40.82	33.26	24.68
20	Egypt A Rp	13.22	16.81	20.98	20.11
21	Italy	42.55	16.90	13.21	16.58
22	South Africa	16.38	18.59	19.03	15.19
23	Germany	13.96	11.73	13.49	13.20
24	Azerbaijan	5.20	12.51	15.53	12.13
25	Singapore	15.04	15.39	14.57	11.22
26	Syria	14.29	19.40	19.57	11.10
27	Afghanistan	0.00	0.18	0.46	10.98
28	Algeria	6.86	9.41	12.61	9.47
29	Reunion	10.59	10.55	9.45	8.33
30	Ethiopia	4.72	9.10	6.93	8.13
Total export to above countries		3966.99	4545.11	4212.83	3126.83
% Share of above		95.14	96.45	96.36	95.70
Total export of Rice-Basmati		4169.56	4712.44	4372.00	3267.18

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata. * provisional

Statement referred to in reply of part (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred question no. 2577 for answer on 10th March 2021

India's export of Rice -Other than Basmati to Top 30 countries

Value in US\$ millions

S. No.	Countries	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (Apr-Jan) *
1	Benin	314.19	264.16	195.90	353.44
2	Nepal	240.40	281.15	245.30	319.64
3	Togo	47.98	93.18	107.90	257.56
4	Cote D' Ivoire	148.95	163.17	107.70	196.97
5	Guinea	173.81	175.93	120.41	191.09
6	Senegal	263.22	220.83	67.49	183.78
7	Malaysia	6.09	13.77	28.62	135.59
8	U Arab Emts	149.21	147.69	130.92	118.85
9	Somalia	125.38	120.89	122.95	117.03
10	Madagascar	65.16	48.96	3.69	111.34
11	Iraq	50.20	36.53	50.33	108.81
12	Liberia	100.20	116.97	79.94	105.45
13	Djibouti	80.19	90.70	69.04	96.58
14	Saudi Arab	73.38	98.29	62.08	88.11
15	South Africa	55.08	54.35	51.90	76.88
16	Bangladesh PR	835.39	219.35	12.12	63.85
17	Mozambique	0.80	3.90	4.51	55.04
18	Russia	22.33	28.16	35.03	45.17
19	Cameroon	19.02	2.37	3.49	44.43
20	Kenya	5.28	12.18	3.41	43.31
21	U S A	33.28	34.49	31.36	41.44
22	Singapore	35.74	32.86	41.01	40.55
23	Algeria	11.64	22.43	18.66	39.44
24	Qatar	54.05	53.25	45.54	39.11
25	Vietnam Soc Rep	2.45	2.18	0.78	35.44
26	Oman	34.88	38.41	28.69	34.69
27	Yemen Republic	52.00	45.42	24.76	33.27
28	Angola	6.42	13.12	13.62	29.45
29	Philippines	15.62	57.79	16.98	27.47
30	China P Rp	0.05	0.97	0.78	26.93
Total export to above countries		3022.41	2493.45	1724.94	3060.71
% Share of above		83.11	82.07	84.92	87.31
Total export of Rice -Other than Basmati		3636.60	3038.16	2031.25	3505.73

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata. * provisional

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2578
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th MARCH, 2021

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS FROM INDIA SCHEME

2578. SHRI KANUMURU RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU:

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

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of the Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS) during the last three years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there is a rapid increase witnessed in the revenue out of the country under MEIS;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to rectify the situation?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

- (a) : Yes Sir. A committee headed by CEO, NITI Aayog comprising of members from Department of Commerce and Ministry of Finance had reviewed the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) in 2019. The main recommendation of the Committee was that a scheme to refund currently un-rebated Central, State and Local Taxes on inputs consumed in manufacturing exported products should be launched, consistent with the globally acceptable and World Trade Organization (WTO) compatible principle that exports should be zero rated.
- (b) to (d): The value of scrips issued under MEIS during last three years and current year is as under:-

Financial Year	Value of MEIS Scrips issued (in Rs Crores)
2017-18	26837.97
2018-19	39724.37
2019-20	39530.45
2020-21*	15452.83

(*as on 26.02.2021)

The outgo under MEIS has increased over these years largely due to:

- i. Increase in coverage of HS lines under the Scheme from about 5000 lines in 2015-16 to about 7500 lines from FY 2017-18 onwards.
- ii. For more than 2250 HS lines, rates under MEIS were increased during FY 2017-18.
- iii. Introduction of online processing from 2018-19 in place of manual procedure earlier.

MEIS has been discontinued with effect from 01.01.2021.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2579
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th MARCH, 2021

BILATERAL TRADE BETWEEN INDIA AND UK

2579. SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI SUBRAT PATHAK:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWA HA:
SHRI RAVI KISHAN:
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA B ARNE:
SHRI SANJAY SADASHIV RAO MANDLIK:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:

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

- (a) whether India and UK have discussed trade and investment relationship between the two countries and if so, the details in this regard;
- (b) whether both the countries have accelerated the process towards launch of the Exchange Trade Products (ETP) and committed to interact on a regular basis, while identifying quick and concrete bilateral deliverables that could cement the ETP and immediately benefit the people of both countries;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the details of benefits accrued to India in this regard;
- (d) whether both the countries have committed to re-launch the CEO Forum and agreed on the CEO Forum meeting in the near future and if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost the relations between UK and India in other fields?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

(a) to (e): In the meeting between the Minister for Commerce and Industry, Government of India and Secretary of State for International Trade, UK held on 6th February 2021 in New Delhi, discussions were held on the India-UK bilateral trade and investment relationship. Both Ministers

reiterated their commitment to a long term India-UK partnership and agreed to deepen trade cooperation between the two countries through an Enhanced Trade Partnership (ETP).

The Ministers also committed to relaunch the India-UK CEO Forum and agreed on its meeting at the earliest. Government is actively engaged to discuss all trade matters with the UK for furtherance of India's economic relations with the UK.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2592
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th MARCH, 2021

EXPORT OF MSME PRODUCTS

2592. SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL:

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

- (a) the percentage of MSME products that are exported out of the total exports of the country during the last five years and the current year;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to encourage the producers and exporters of MSME products with better infrastructure and also for adopting new techniques being used in other countries; and
- (c) if so, the details of the steps taken thereon?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

(a): The percentage share of estimated value of export of 358 items which are reserved for manufacturing by MSME and the percentage share of estimated value of exports of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) related products in India's total exports during last five years and current year is as follows:

Value in US\$ Billions					
Years	India's Total Exports	Export of Products reserved for manufacturing by MSME	% Share	Export of MSME related Products	% Share
2015-16	262.29	24.18	9.22	130.77	49.86
2016-17	275.85	23.96	8.69	137.07	49.69
2017-18	303.53	26.82	8.84	147.39	48.56
2018-19	330.08	27.53	8.34	158.76	48.10
2019-20	313.36	27.20	8.68	155.91	49.75
2020-21 (Apr-Dec)*	201.28	18.34	9.11	99.58	49.47

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata & Ministry of MSME. (*: Provisional)

(b) & (c): In order to support Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Government has initiated various schemes for infrastructure development such as Micro & Small Enterprises-Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP), Scheme for Promotion of MSMEs in NER & Sikkim, Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI), Entrepreneurship & Skill Development Programme (ESDP) and upskilling through testing/technology centers, support for tooling/technology services etc.

Government has also taken various initiatives to enhance MSME competitiveness by way of Credit Linked Capital Subsidy, Lean Manufacturing, Design Improvement, Zero Defect Zero effect Certification, Support for Incubators, Awareness of Intellectual Property Rights & Digital Empowerment of MSMEs, Procurement and Marketing Scheme (PMS), A scheme for Promoting Innovation, Rural Industry and Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE), Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGTMSE), Interest Subvention Scheme for MSMEs etc.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2595
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th MARCH, 2021

NABL

2595. SHRI VINCENT H. PALA:

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

- (a) the number of National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories(NABL) accredited food testing laboratories for export in the country and their state-wise distribution;
- (b) whether there is any food testing laboratory or referral laboratory for quality inspection and certification for international export of agri-based products in any of the North-Eastern states to ensure compliance with sanitary and phyto-sanitary(SPS) requirements;
- (c) if not, whether this does not significantly increase cost of small exporters to send products for testing to another state and whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the same;
- (d) whether there is any plan to set up such laboratories in each state to boost their agri-exports and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to improve the infrastructure for testing and quality control in the country in order to comply to international SPS standards and boost agri-exports?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

- (a): The number of National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited food testing laboratories for export in the country under integrated assessment for testing laboratories and their state-wise distribution, is given below:-

S.No.	State	Number of NABL Accredited Laboratories
1	Andhra Pradesh	07
2	Delhi	05
3	Gujarat	10
4	Haryana	11
5	Kerala	05
6	Karnataka	07
7	Madhya Pradesh	02
8	Maharashtra	15
9	Odisha	01
10	Punjab	01
11	Rajasthan	01
12	Telengana	04
13	Tamil Nadu	07
14	Uttar Pradesh	01
15	West Bengal	03
Total		80

(b), (c) & (d): There is one food testing Laboratory authorised by APEDA in the State of Assam for quality inspection and certification for international export of agri-based products in the North Eastern States to ensure compliance with Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) requirements. In addition, the two laboratories in Kolkata also cater to the testing requirements of exporters in the North Eastern Region.

(e) Measures for improving infrastructure for testing and quality control to comply with international SPS standards and boost agri-exports is a continuous process. From time to time, the Government provides financial and technical support to improve high precision instrumentation and analytical competence to its authorised labs for their upgradation to ensure quality control.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2619(H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th MARCH, 2021

SEZs

2619 (H). SHRI ARUN SAO:

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

- (a) the salient features and objectives of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) set up in the country;
- (b) the details and number of such Special Economic Zones;
- (c) whether the country is being benefitted in the agriculture and food processing sectors through the setting up of Special Economic Zones; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

(a): The Special Economic Zones (SEZs) policy was launched in April, 2000. The Special Economic Zones Act, 2005, was passed by Parliament in May, 2005 which received Presidential assent on the 23rd of June, 2005. The SEZ Rules, 2006 came into effect on 10th February, 2006. The salient features of the SEZ scheme are:-

- (i) A designated duty free enclave to be treated as a territory outside the customs territory of India for the purpose of authorised operations in the SEZ;
- (ii) No licence required for import;
- (iii) Manufacturing or service activities allowed;
- (iv) The Unit shall achieve Positive Net Foreign Exchange to be calculated cumulatively for a period of five years from the commencement of production;
- (v) Domestic sales subject to full customs duty and import policy in force;
- (vi) SEZ units will have freedom for subcontracting;
- (vii) No routine examination by customs authorities of export/import cargo;
- (viii) SEZ Developers /Co-Developers and Units enjoy tax benefits as prescribed in the SEZs Act, 2005.

The notification of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country is guided by the following:-

- i. generation of additional economic activity
- ii. promotion of exports of goods and services;
- iii. promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources;
- iv. creation of employment opportunities;
- v. development of infrastructure facilities

(b): There were 7 Central Government Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and 12 State/Private Sector SEZs prior to the enactment of the SEZs Act, 2005. In addition, 425 proposals for setting up of SEZs in the country have been accorded formal approval under the SEZ Act, 2005. Presently, 3 78 SEZs are notified, out of which 265 are operational. States/Union Territories-wise details of SEZs is at **Annexure-I**.

(c) and (d): Yes Sir, 8 Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been approved for the Agro and Food Processing sector in India. Of these 8 SEZs, 7 have been notified and 4 are operational. A statement showing details of Agro and Food Processing SEZs in India is at **Annexure-II**. The exports from these SEZs during the last five years and current year 2020-21 (i.e. up to 31st December, 2020) is as under:

Years	Exports (Value in Rs. Crores)
2015-16	2365
2016-17	4061
2017-18	4117
2018-19	4405
2019-20	5219
2020-21 (up to 31.12.2020)	5456

Annexure-I to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2619 for 10th March, 2021

States/Union Territories-wise distribution of approved SEZs					
States/UTs	Central Government SEZs set up prior to the enactment of SEZs Act, 2005	State Government/ Private Sector SEZs set up prior to the enactment of SEZs Act, 2005	Formal Approvals granted under the SEZs Act, 2005	Notified SEZs under the SEZ Act, 2005	Total Operational SEZs (Including prior to SEZs Act + under the SEZs Act, 2005)
Andhra Pradesh	1	0	32	27	24
Chandigarh	0	0	2	2	2
Chhattisgarh	0	0	2	1	1
Delhi	0	0	2	0	0
Goa	0	0	7	3	0
Gujarat	1	2	26	22	21
Haryana	0	0	25	22	7
Jharkhand	0	0	2	2	0
Karnataka	0	0	63	52	34
Kerala	1	0	29	25	20
Madhya Pradesh	0	1	12	7	5
Maharashtra	1	0	51	45	37
Manipur	0	0	1	1	0
Nagaland	0	0	2	2	0
Odisha	0	0	7	5	5
Puducherry	0	0	1	0	0
Punjab	0	0	5	3	3
Rajasthan	0	2	5	4	3
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	1	4	56	53	48
Telangana	0	0	63	56	34
Tripura	0	0	1	1	0
Uttar Pradesh	1	1	24	21	14
West Bengal	1	2	7	5	7
GRAND TOTAL	7	12	425	359	265

Annexure-II to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2619 for 10th March, 2021

List of Agro and Food Processing SEZs in India			
Sl. No.	Name of the developer	Location	SEZ status
1	Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA)	Malappuram District, Kerala	Notified and Operational
2	Parry Infrastructure Company Private Limited	Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh	Notified and Operational
3	CCCL Pearl City Food Port SEZ Ltd.	Tuticorin District, Tamil Nadu	Notified and Operational
4	CCL Products (India) Limited	Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh	Notified and Operational
5	Nagaland Industrial Development Corporation Limited	Dimapur, Nagaland	Notified
6	Ansal Colours Engineering SEZ Limited	Sonepat, Haryana	Notified
7	Tripura Industrial Development Corporation Limited	Paschim Jalefa, Sabroom, South Tripura District, Tripura	Notified
8	Akshaypatra Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.	Mehsana, Gujarat	Formal Approval

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2629 (H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th MARCH, 2021

EXPORT OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

2629 (H). SHRI HARISH DWIVEDI:

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

- (a) the commodity-wise and year-wise details of the essential commodities exported by the country during each of the last five years and the current year;
- (b) whether any increase/decrease has been registered in the export of essential commodities during the said period; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

(a): The value of India's export of essential commodities (broad category wise) during last five years and current year is at **Annexure-I**.

(b) and (c): The value of India's export of essential commodities and the percentage change (showing increase/decrease) during the last five years and current year is as follows:

(Value in US\$ Million)

Years	Export of Essential Commodities	Percentage change
2015-16	45,721.80	--
2016-17	45,914.87	0.42
2017-18	54,337.88	18.34
2018-19	64,377.05	18.48
2019-20	56,260.64	-12.61
2019-20 (Apr-Jan)	47,544.88	---
2020-21 (Apr-Jan) *	34,754.26	-26.90

Source; DGCI&S. * Provisional

The changes in the export of essential commodities arises due to a number of global and domestic factors such as demand and supply in domestic and international markets, worldwide lockdown during corona pandemic, currency fluctuations, international prices, policy interventions, weather conditions etc.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply of part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred question no. 2629 for answer on 10th March 2021

Value of India's exports of Essential Commodities

Value in US\$ millions

S. No.	Commodities	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2019-20 (Apr-Jan)	2020-21 (Apr-Jan) *
1	Bulk Drugs, Drug Intermediates	3594.6	3383.52	3540.42	3911.14	3885.87	3283.92	3660.58
2	Cotton Yarn	3608.12	3337.49	3424.92	3895.52	2760.51	2280.29	2177.57
3	Essential Oils	115.44	112.45	146.17	171.8	204.98	171.46	194.17
4	Fertilizers Crude	11.83	9.17	12.56	11.85	12.62	10.57	11.51
5	Fertilizers Manufactured	91.7	60.33	93.82	136.84	104.86	82.55	86.51
6	Floor Covering Of Jute	34.01	37.75	46.48	53.01	70.29	59.33	74.66
7	Fresh Vegetables	799.93	863.12	821.76	812	651.68	546.65	598.25
8	Fruits / Vegetable Seeds	80.89	78.16	104.04	124.93	109.24	94.07	105.91
9	Jute Hessian	125.54	138.23	141.23	113.81	103.04	88.59	83.02
10	Jute Yarn	18.34	10.65	20.2	15.58	16.57	12.88	11.88
11	Jute, Raw	17.18	11.44	14.81	15.3	14.6	12.49	19.23
12	Other Cereals	261.18	212.3	248.59	348.97	205.19	171.36	515
13	Other Jute Manufactures	117.47	123.31	127.17	142.53	152.71	131.29	115.36
14	Petroleum Products	30582.64	31545.26	37465.08	46553.58	41288.74	35329.08	19763.27
15	Pulses	252.09	191.05	227.75	259.35	213.67	177.62	224.24
16	Rice -Basmati	3477.98	3208.6	4169.56	4712.44	4372	3397.57	3267.19
17	Rice(Other Than Basmati)	2368.64	2525.19	3636.6	3038.16	2031.25	1638.88	3505.74
18	Wheat	164.22	66.85	96.72	60.24	62.82	56.28	340.17
Export of above commodities		45721.8	45914.9	54337.9	64377.1	56260.6	47544.9	34754.3

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata (*: Provisional)

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2631
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th MARCH, 2021

STEEL IMPORT MONITORING SYSTEM

2631. SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN:

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has developed monitoring system which would provide advance information on steel imports to Government and other stakeholders and if so the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the steel importers would have to submit advance information in online system to get automatic Registration Number and if so the details thereof;
- (c) the details of validity of Registration Number and documents which have to be entered by importer in bill of entry to enable clearance from customs for consignment; and
- (d) whether this would bring transparency and help to resolve the issues of over invoicing and under invoicing and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

- (a) & (b): Steel Import Monitoring System (SIMS), an online platform for advance registration of intended imports of steel, was launched by the Government vide Notification dated 05.09.2019. The intended steel importers have to submit advance information in online system to obtain Registration Number through an online web-portal 15-60 days before the actual date of import.

(c): The validity of Registration Number is for a period of 75 days which is obtained through online SIMS Registration web-portal. No other document apart from SIMS Registration Number and its expiry date is required to be declared mandatorily in the Bill of Entry(with respect to SIMS), to enable clearance of consignments from customs.

(d): SIMS, besides bringing in transparency, has helped the Ministry of Steel and the industry in identifying the exact steel grades being imported into the country in a timely manner.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2651
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th MARCH, 2021

TOBACCO FARMERS

2651. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIV ASULU REDDY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government has failed to provide remunerative prices to Tobacco farmers of the country while the cost of production has gone up rapidly and prices of crops have gone down drastically since 2019 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether farmers are suffering from losses on account of non-remunerative prices of tobacco; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/ being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

(a) & (b): Tobacco Board ensures the fair and remunerative prices to FCV Tobacco farmers by fixing Minimum Guarantee Indicative Price (MGIP) in consultation with FCV Tobacco farmers and Traders. The FCV Tobacco production is mainly concentrated in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. In the year 2019-20, the price realization of the FCV farmers was above the MGIP, despite the unseasonal rain in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and COVID pandemic.

(c): Tobacco Board conducts e-auctions for sale of FCV tobacco on the designated auction platforms for encouraging competition among the traders to have better price discovery. Further, in order to ensure better returns to the farmers, Tobacco Board conducts various yield and quality upgradation activities like, facilitating supply of essential inputs for production of quality tobacco viz., seed, fertilizers etc., energy conservation measures for reducing the wood fuel usage in tobacco curing, field visits with scientists from Central Tobacco Research Institute for technical advisory services, etc.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2660
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th MARCH, 2021

BRAND INDIA MISSION

2660. SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is planning to launch Brand India Mission and if so, the details of aims and objectives set under this mission;
- (b) the details of sectors to be covered under Brand India Mission;
- (c) whether the Government has set any goals/ target to be achieved under this mission and if so the details thereof;
- (d) whether all stake-holders of States/UTs have been invited to seek their opinion for allocation of funds and implementation of the same and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of funds to be allocated under this mission?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

(a) to (e) : Branding is a continuous process. Government is using every formal opportunity to brand India in different fora through its agencies. There is no specific Brand India Mission as of now.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2664
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th MARCH, 2021

GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN

2664. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that the global supply chain in the post-Covid world is being reconfigured by multinationals on the basis of not just the costs but also on the supply chain security;
- (b) if so, whether the Government will consider it as a great prospect to revive and judiciously restructure Indian economy;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Ministry has prepared any strategic plans that are in tune with the newest inclination of globalisation and present India's domestic market of 1.32 billion consumers as a rewarding opportunity for long term viability to the global manufacturers; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

- (a) to (e): The Government of India has taken a number of steps, including strengthening of domestic manufacturing and promoting trade ties with a number of trading partners so as to ensure reliable and adequate supply chains. Promoting these trade ties and taking other suitable measures is an ongoing process, based on the changing requirements in a dynamic world. Moreover, the existing Free Trade Agreements also ensure seamless supplies for the domestic manufacturing sector on preferential terms. Some of the specific support measures include, the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme to boost the production in champion sectors in manufacturing, launch of Champion Services Sector Scheme, setting up industrial parks such as Mega Textile parks for the Textile sector, introduction of Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) Scheme etc. In addition, to liberalise and

simplify Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy for providing Ease of doing business and attract investments, the Government has taken a number of steps by further liberalizing policy of FDI for certain sectors.

The various measures along with the preferential tariff agreements with the trading partners will ensure the viability & integration of the supply chain.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2671
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th MARCH, 2021

EXPORT OF COTTON YARN

2671. SHRI RAHUL GANDHI:

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

- (a) the month-wise and export destination-wise details of cotton yarn exported since January 2020;
- (b) whether the Ministry has received any representation from the apparel industry regarding the steep increase in the price of cotton yarn and requests to implement a suitable intervention to stabilize prices;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and whether any action has been initiated to address their concerns;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any measures to support the Indian merchandise industry and to boost exports post lockdown; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

(a) : The value of India's export of Cotton yarn since January 2020 to January 2021 is as follows:

Months	Value of Export of Cotton Yarn (in US\$ million)
January, 2020	284.20
February, 2020	266.48
March, 2020	213.75
April, 2020	52.60
May, 2020	153.83

Months	Value of Export of Cotton Yarn (in US\$ million)
June, 2020	244.02
July, 2020	255.09
August, 2020	234.50
September, 2020	239.48
October, 2020	227.58
November, 2020	239.33
December, 2020	271.04
January, 2021	260.09

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata

Top 30 country-wise and month-wise value of export of Cotton yarn during January 2020 to January 2021 is at **Annexure-I**.

(b) & (c): Representations/suggestions are received from trade organizations/export promotion councils from time to time for promotion of exports which are taken into consideration as part of the regular ongoing process of review and reform of trade policies. The Ministry of Textiles has received representations regarding improving yarn availability for apparel exporters due to steep rise in price of cotton yarn which is under examination.

(d) & (e): The Government has taken the following key steps to support the Indian merchandise industry and to boost exports:

- 1) Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20) extended by one year i.e. upto 31-3-2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation.
- 2) Interest Equalization Scheme on pre and post shipment rupee export credit has also been extended by one year i.e. upto 31-3-2021.
- 3) A new Scheme, Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP), has been launched with effect from 01.01.2021.
- 4) Common Digital Platform for Certificate of Origin has been launched to facilitate trade and increase FTA utilization by exporters.
- 5) The Government provides financial support to various Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) and Trade Bodies, engaged in promotion of textiles and garments exports, under Market Access Initiative (MAI) scheme for organizing and participating in trade fairs, exhibitions, buyer-seller meets etc.
- 6) During Covid-19 pandemic, virtual exhibitions are being organized by textile EPCs as an alternative mode of marketing, in order to tap opportunities in the global markets.

- 7) A comprehensive “Agriculture Export Policy” to provide an impetus to agricultural exports related to agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries and food processing sectors, is under implementation.
- 8) Promoting districts as export hubs by identifying products with export potential in each district, addressing bottlenecks for exporting these products and supporting local exporters/manufacturers to generate employment in the district.
- 9) Active role of Indian missions abroad towards promoting India’s trade, tourism, technology and investment goals has been enhanced.
- 10) Package announced in light of the covid pandemic to support domestic industry through various banking and financial sector relief measures, especially for MSMEs, which constitute a major share in exports.

Statement referred to in reply of part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred question no. 2671 for answer on 10th March 2021

India's export of cotton yarn to top 30 countries

Value in US\$ millions

S. No.	Countries	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20
1	Bangladesh Pr	68.00	74.83	62.78	12.34	31.88	65.74	75.69
2	China P Rp	67.44	42.37	29.92	12.55	41.30	72.73	56.79
3	Vietnam Soc Rep	12.62	16.44	13.06	2.86	13.11	13.10	13.55
4	Egypt A Rp	25.63	18.02	10.90	1.70	7.36	9.59	11.94
5	Peru	9.99	12.31	9.46	0.70	0.70	3.83	10.08
6	Portugal	13.19	14.37	9.68	2.36	6.42	8.60	9.87
7	Korea Rp	11.41	9.46	5.70	1.80	5.02	5.46	6.73
8	Sri Lanka Dsr	6.08	7.32	4.56	2.14	4.51	5.82	5.55
9	Turkey	4.91	7.02	7.91	1.85	5.73	9.16	9.94
10	Colombia	4.87	5.69	5.84	1.37	1.34	1.44	1.82
11	Germany	4.75	5.56	4.47	1.03	4.11	3.93	4.38
12	Myanmar	3.89	5.22	2.82	0.60	1.43	3.44	4.73
13	Japan	3.35	3.54	2.07	2.04	2.35	2.67	2.17
14	Italy	3.86	3.40	2.73	0.28	2.26	2.61	2.93
15	Mauritius	1.81	2.24	2.73	0.28	1.45	1.82	2.62
16	Malaysia	3.18	2.58	3.11	0.66	3.08	2.29	1.92
17	Thailand	3.02	3.59	2.98	0.67	1.45	2.90	3.36
18	Oman	2.47	1.83	2.55	0.00	0.74	3.61	3.64
19	Brazil	1.64	0.94	1.64	0.09	0.62	0.16	0.13
20	Guatemala	2.72	2.33	2.17	0.73	0.78	1.00	2.14
21	Poland	1.74	1.44	1.88	0.90	2.37	2.35	2.87
22	Taiwan	1.84	1.64	2.30	0.67	2.00	1.35	1.44
23	Indonesia	2.98	2.50	2.90	0.71	0.81	1.22	0.93
24	U S A	1.22	1.44	1.54	0.22	1.76	1.66	1.35
25	Morocco	2.48	3.20	1.80	0.35	0.14	0.26	1.13
26	Tunisia	0.42	1.06	0.98	0.37	1.24	2.12	1.78
27	Hong Kong	1.44	0.69	0.65	0.06	0.70	1.18	0.32
28	Philippines	2.19	2.42	2.30	0.12	0.06	0.56	1.03
29	Chile	0.52	0.91	0.54	0.31	0.68	1.15	0.95
30	Iran	2.09	0.58	1.79	0.31	1.09	2.32	2.78
Total of Above		271.76	254.94	203.74	50.06	146.50	234.05	244.55
% Share		95.62	95.67	95.32	95.18	95.24	95.91	95.87
Total Export of Cotton Yarn		284.20	266.48	213.75	52.60	153.83	244.02	255.09

S. No.	Countries	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21
1	Bangladesh Pr	64.44	62.22	57.16	46.38	52.41	53.29
2	China P Rp	39.71	38.93	35.94	68.58	66.89	58.02
3	Vietnam Soc Rep	10.46	9.09	13.01	13.62	20.73	21.59
4	Egypt A Rp	9.08	10.96	12.30	9.97	14.62	13.29
5	Peru	17.46	20.55	20.05	15.66	14.51	14.39
6	Portugal	18.84	17.54	13.10	10.85	5.77	6.12
7	Korea Rp	6.74	5.66	6.15	8.67	13.50	13.04
8	Sri Lanka Dsr	6.24	8.07	7.89	7.08	6.75	8.40
9	Turkey	8.14	5.69	2.67	1.92	1.90	2.16
10	Colombia	2.01	4.76	5.84	7.62	8.60	11.11
11	Germany	3.73	4.09	4.05	3.34	5.67	3.69
12	Myanmar	4.74	4.30	1.40	2.54	3.77	3.28
13	Japan	1.30	3.05	1.88	2.21	3.74	3.26
14	Italy	3.54	2.66	2.48	1.73	2.64	1.75
15	Mauritius	3.22	3.36	3.46	2.14	4.23	2.45
16	Malaysia	0.90	1.88	2.77	1.62	4.07	3.39
17	Thailand	2.26	2.20	2.88	2.17	2.09	1.73
18	Oman	3.33	4.28	2.55	2.92	1.25	1.27
19	Brazil	0.38	2.98	5.35	5.13	5.71	4.53
20	Guatemala	2.75	1.86	2.26	2.21	2.95	3.55
21	Poland	2.55	2.69	1.27	1.32	1.07	1.48
22	Taiwan	1.74	1.45	2.60	1.31	1.90	1.74
23	Indonesia	1.87	1.54	0.71	1.63	2.32	1.33
24	U S A	1.80	1.75	1.16	1.33	1.91	2.56
25	Morocco	1.40	2.13	0.93	1.73	1.22	1.72
26	Tunisia	0.99	0.94	1.61	0.86	0.81	1.27
27	Hong Kong	0.70	1.17	1.53	1.08	2.71	1.26
28	Philippines	0.87	0.33	1.06	0.76	0.46	1.02
29	Chile	0.70	0.99	1.50	1.52	1.22	1.78
30	Iran	1.56	0.12	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total of Above		223.47	227.23	215.68	227.87	255.41	244.47
% Share		95.30	94.88	94.77	95.21	94.23	93.99
Total Export of Cotton Yarn		234.50	239.48	227.58	239.33	271.04	260.09

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2678
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th MARCH, 2021

SPICES PARK IN KERALA

2678. SHRI V.K.SREEKANDAN :

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to set up spices park in the State of Kerala to tap the vast potential of spices produced in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any proposal in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

(a) & (b): Spices Board has established eight Spices Parks in the major spice growing areas in the country including a Spices Park at Puttadi in the Idukki district of Kerala with financial assistance from the Government of India under the scheme of Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and Allied activities (ASIDE). Presently, there is no proposal to set up spices park in the State of Kerala. However, eligible entities including State Governments owned Agencies, may apply for technical assistance from Spices Board and infrastructure support under available schemes of Government of India, for this purpose.

(c) & (d): The Government has not received any proposal in this regard.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2712
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th MARCH, 2021

FLEXIBILITY IN DATA NORMS

2712. SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

- (a) whether UK has sought flexibility in India's data norms as part of talks for trade and investment treaty;
- (b) if so, the response of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether both the countries have asked each other to lower duty on goods being imported and exported;
- (d) if so, the ground set by both the countries before talks between Prime Ministers of both the countries in April 2021; and
- (e) the further steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

(a) and (b): No sir. .

(c) to (e): During the trade ministerial meeting between India and the UK held on 6th February 2021 in New Delhi, it has been agreed to launch an Enhanced Trade Partnership (ETP) during the visit of the UK Prime Minister to India, later this year. Both sides are accordingly extensively engaged with each other to finalise the modalities of the ETP. This is part of the ongoing process and both sides would continue to discuss and address all issues of bilateral interests as part of the regular bilateral trade engagement between India and the UK.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2713
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th MARCH, 2021

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

2713. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

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

- (a) the details of the efforts that have been made by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) to safeguard the Intellectual Property rights relating to 'Scheduled Products' and 'Special Products' as provided under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985;
- (b) the details and the status of protection of Intellectual Property Rights of 'Special Products' in important foreign countries and zones; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to strengthen the APEDA in order to protect the invaluable intellectual property of the country?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

(a): The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) Act mandates APEDA to undertake measures for registration and protection of the Intellectual Property rights in respect of 'Special Products', listed in Second Schedule of the Act, in India or outside India. As of now, the Second Schedule has only one entry i.e. "Basmati Rice".

APEDA has undertaken following measures for registration and protection of the intellectual property rights in respect of Basmati rice:

- i. Basmati Rice has been registered as a Geographical Indication (GI) vide Certificate dated 15.02.2016 issued by the GI Registry.
- ii. A watch agency has been appointed to monitor the trade mark registers worldwide for any third party attempt to register the name 'Basmati' or any deceptive variations thereof. Action has been taken by way of opposition, rectifications, civil suits, cease & desist notices, amicable settlements etc. in respect of 607 such attempts worldwide.

iii. A law firm has been engaged to initiate/ deal with the consequential legal matters for protection of GI/ Certification of Mark for 'Basmati', both in India and foreign jurisdictions.

(b): Applications have been filed in 19 foreign jurisdictions for protection of GI/ Certification Mark vested in 'Basmati'. So far, the Certification Mark 'Basmati' and its logo have been registered in 4 countries – UK, South Africa, New Zealand and Kenya.

(c): Registration and protection of intellectual property rights in respect of 'Special Products' is a part of APEDA's overall mandate of promotion of exports of agriculture products. To achieve its objectives, APEDA implements 'Agriculture and Processed Food Export Promotion Scheme of APEDA', which is funded by the Central Government.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2715
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th MARCH, 2021

IMPACT OF CORONA ON SEZs

2715. SHRI BRIJENDRA SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has made a final assessment on losses incurred to units established in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) during the Corona period;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken some measures to help units established in SEZs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

(a) and (b): The Government does not make an assessment of losses incurred by units in Special Economic Zones (SEZs). SEZ units have an obligation to achieve positive Net Foreign Exchange (NFE) earnings to be calculated cumulatively for a period of 5 years from the commencement of production.

(c) and (d): Yes Sir, the following measures were taken during the COVID-19 outbreak to mitigate the hardship and to facilitate SEZ Developers/Co-developers/Units:-

- i. The last date of filing of various compliances was extended from 31.03.2020 to 30.06.2020 e.g. Quarterly Progress Report (QPR), SOFTEX form and Annual Performance Reports (APR).
- ii. Development Commissioners (DCs) were directed to facilitate extension of Letter of Approvals (LoAs) and other compliances scheduled to expire during COVID pandemic, through electronic mode, in a time-bound manner. Further, DCs were directed in cases where it was not possible to grant extension through electronic mode to ensure that the Developer / Co-developer / Units did not face any hardship due to such expiry of validity during this period

of disruption, and ad-hoc interim extension / deferment of the expiry date was granted without prejudice till 30.06.2020.

- iii. Along with IT/ITES Units, Non IT/ITES Units in SEZs have also been allowed to take desktop/laptop outside SEZs to work from home. This has enabled exports especially in IT/ITES sector to register a positive growth despite lockdown.
- iv. Power has been delegated to Development Commissioners for broad-banding in case of manufacturing of essential items like masks, sanitizer, gowns and other protective/preventive products/instruments subject to post-facto ratification by the Approval Committee.
- v. Directions were issued that there should be no increase in lease rent for the units in Central Government SEZs for the Financial Year 2020-21. Payment of lease rent of first quarter was deferred upto 31st July 2020 for all the units in Central Government SEZs. Further, Development Commissioners were also requested to allow the units to clear the first two quarterly instalments of lease rent in six equal instalments starting from October 1st, 2020.
- vi. Development Commissioners were also requested to advise developers of State Government/Private SEZs to consider similar relief measures in their zones.
- vii. All Development Commissioners have been sensitized to adopt electronic work culture and to extend necessary support to the units, including those involved in manufacturing of drugs, essential items etc, and to follow COVID guidelines.
