

Development Authority (APEDA), under the Basmati Development Fund, have appointed a watchdog agency and a law firm to scan all applications in different countries filed for Registration of Certification Trade Mark and Patents etc. with the names including words 'Basmati Rice' or similar phrases; and pursuing legal cases in respective countries. In Pakistan, a case is being pursued by APEDA in the High Court of Sind at Karachi, opposing the grant of Certification Trademark to Basmati Growers' Association of Pakistan.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has already filed its application for the protection of this variety under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001.

(d) The present complaint from India to the WTO is regarding 'Restrictions on Certain Import Duties on Rice' by the European Communities.

As a first step, APEDA has filed application for Registration of Basmati Rice under the Geographical Indications (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999; and is also holding consultations with the trade regarding the registration of Certification Trade Mark.

MSP for onion

3681. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the major onion producing States of the country like Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat have demanded that the Central Government should fix a minimum support price (MSP) for onion in addition to the 25 commodities for which it fixes the MSP; and

(b) if so, whether any decision is taken by now and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra requested to Government of India to declare MSP for Onion like other agricultural commodities. In this regard, it was intimated to Government of Maharashtra that Government of India fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 25 commodities and onion is not covered within this group. It was also informed to them that for onion and other horticultural commodities of perishable in nature, the Government of India implements another scheme called Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). The objective of MIS is to protect the growers of such crops from losses due to distress sale in the event of bumper crop. The MIS is implemented on the request of State/UT Government willing to bear 50% of the loss (25% in case of North-Eastern States), if any, incurred on procurement of such commodities, which is restricted to 25% of the procurement cost. No proposal from the State Government of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat has been received for procurement of onion under MIS.