

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) For better monitoring, control and surveillance in the Indian coastal waters, Government has introduced two schemes namely, '**Uniform registration of fishing vessels**' requiring uniform registration of all types of fishing vessels irrespective of their size, tonnage, etc. and a central sector scheme on '**Issuance of Biometric Identity Cards to Coastal Fishermen**'.

In addition, all fishing vessels which fish in the Indian EEZ and territorial waters need compulsory registration and permit/licence to fish, Foreign fishing vessels have not been given any permission for fishing in Indian waters including EEZ. Foreign crew members engaged by Indian vessels require security clearance before they can work in these vessels.

Export of rice

*200. SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding quantity and value of export of rice during the last three years;

(b) whether the demand for Indian rice has been rising steadily in foreign countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) The details of export of rice (basmati and non-basmati) during the last three years is given below:—

(Qty in 000 tonnes, value in Rs. crore)

Year	Basmati Rice		Non Basmati Rice		Total	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
2007-08	1182.15	4341	5286.84	7411	6468.99	11,752
2008-09	1556.41	9477	931.89	1687	2488.30	11,174
2009-10	2016.87	10890	139.54	365	2156.41	11,255

Source: DGCIS

(b) and (c) Over a period of five years the export of Indian basmati rice has increased from Rs. 3,043 crore in year 2004-05 to Rs. 10,890 crore in the year 2009-10. The prominent importing countries where the demand has gone up include Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates,

Kuwait, Iran etc. As regards, non-basmati rice, its export has been banned/restricted (except export on diplomatic basis) since April, 2008.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Business operations in exports

†1396. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that around 7 to 10 per cent of export cost is towards the cost of business;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this cost needs to be brought down in the country; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto, and the steps being taken in the direction of reducing the cost of business operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Drawing broad inputs from the 'Doing Business 2009 Report' of the World Bank, the Task Force on Transaction Cost in Exports constituted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has estimated the transaction cost approximately as 7-10% of the export value. The Task Force report released on 8th February, 2011 includes 44 recommendations concerning various Ministries/Departments. 21 recommendations have been implemented and two recommendations are likely to be implemented shortly. The Government has also announced a number of steps from time to time to reduce export costs and make Indian Exports competitive in global market. This includes announcement made in Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2009-14, on 27.8.2009, Annual Supplement to the Foreign Trade Policy 2010-11 on 23.8.2010 and certain specific measures on 11.2.2011.

Export of onions

1397. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Agriculture has requested this Ministry to allow export of onions pointing to the crashing wholesale prices of onions at major producing centres; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.