

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

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## 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

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.