

members of some political parties, on the Government's decision to permit FDI in Multi-brand retail trade.

- (c) No decision has been taken in the matter.

Revoking ban on export of food products

†4. SHRI RAVISHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that permission has been granted to export several food products from the country, which were prohibited during the last few years;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) the names of these products; and
- (d) the quantity of each of the products to be exported as assessed by Government during current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) **Non Basmati Rice:** Government has permitted export of non-basmati rice through Notification No. 71 dated 09.09.2011. Its export was prohibited since October, 2007.

Wheat: Government has permitted export of wheat through Notification No. 72 dated 09.09.2011. Its export was prohibited since October, 2007.

Onion: Export of onion has been free except for brief period of (i) 22.12.2010 to 18.02.2011 and (ii) 09.09.2011 to 20.09.2011 during which export was banned.

Milk Products: Ban was imposed on export of milk powders and casein and casein products on 18.02.2011. Ban on export of casein and casein products was removed and it was restricted with effect from 01.05.2012. Thus, it became exportable under licence. Export of Skimmed Milk Powder was made free w.e.f. 08.06.2012.

- (d) There is no quantity restriction on export of above products.

Removal of mep for basmati rice

5. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has removed the Minimum Export Price (MEP) for

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

basmati rice in favour of rice exporters who compete against Pakistan that exports the premium variety without any value restrictions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the move would improve export of the premium variety of rice; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Basmati rice can be exported without any Minimum Export Price (MEP) w.e.f. 4th July, 2012 in terms of Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Notification No. 6 (RE-2012)/2009-14 dated 04th July, 2012.

(c) and (d) The suspension of MEP would bring in the desired flexibility and agility to the exporters to respond to varying demands of different markets/segments and also would enable seamless trade of basmati rice. During the month of July 2012, the quantity for which contracts have been registered with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for export of Basmati Rice, has gone upto 300 thousand MT as compared to 239 thousand MT in the same month during 2011.

Review of Meat Export Policy

6. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any independent study has been done for the continuance of the existing Meat Export Policy except on the contentions of generation of employment, foreign exchange earnings, avoidable rise in the number of so-called unproductive animals, etc.;

(b) whether just eight per cent of meat products are exported in relation to its total production leading to avoidable increase in the number of slaughter houses—both authorized and unauthorized; and

(c) will Government review its decision and stop export of meat products because international standards for meat necessitates the slaughter of young and healthy animals and local State laws prohibit slaughter of such animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Government is not aware of any such study.