

Promotion of export of goods manufactured by SC/ST owned firms

1724. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has a policy on promotion of export of goods manufactured by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes owned firms;

(b) if so, the details of the policy along with the broad indicators for performance of such schemes; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Foreign Trade Policy allows promotion of export of goods manufactured by firms including firms owned by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Change in IPR regime

1725. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that Khadi is unique to India;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that in spite of his Ministry's efforts we have not been able to get patent on Khadi;

(c) whether there is any need to change our Intellectual Property Rights regime for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A patent is granted for an invention which is new (novel) with respect to the prior art, involves inventive features and has industrial applicability. Hence, no patent can be granted for Khadi as the knowledge of process and products of Khadi cloth are already in public domain.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of rice

†1726. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) quantity of rice produced and exported from the country in the years 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively;
- (b) India's ranking in the world in regard to export of rice during these years;
- (c) whether India is likely to slip behind Thailand in export of rice in 2013; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Sir, the data regarding production, export, and rank of India as the exporting country of the rice in the years 2010, 2011, 2012 is as under:

Period	Production* (in lakh tonnes)	Export quantity* (in lakh tonnes)	Rank of Indian among exporting countries of rice
2009-2010	890.9	21.56	4th
2010-11	959.8	24.71	4th
2011-12	1043.2 (4th Advance estimate)	71.75	1st
2012-13	1030 (target)	74.67 (Apr.-Dec. 2012)	

(Source: Department of Agriculture & Cooperation/APEDA).

* April-March.

(c) and (d) As the export price of Indian rice was more competitive than the Thai rice, India has displaced Thailand from the position of top exporter of rice during 2011-12. Export performance of both countries in coming years would depend upon quantum of production of rice in India and Thailand as also the overall global supply scenario and other nuances of international trade in agricultural commodities.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.