

Pending claim of APEDA with GI registry

2660. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the claim of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) filed with Geographical Indications Registry for exclusive use of Basmati tag for rice grain varieties grown in the Indo-Gangetic Plain region is still pending for grant of registration;

(b) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has come forward to endorse the claim for GI Registration recently filed by Madhya Kshetra Basmati Growers' Association; and

(c) whether a group of agricultural scientists has also opposed the attempt of Madhya Pradesh to be included in the Basmati growing regions, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN) : (a) and (b) APEDA had moved an application for registration of Basmati (GI-145) as a Geographical Indication in Class 30 on 26.11.2008 under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act 1999. After publication of the matter in the GI Journal under Section 13 of the GI Act, the GI registry received 9 oppositions from various parties including.

- (i) the State Government of Madhya Pradesh
- (ii) Madhya Kshetra Basmati Growers' Association and
- (iii) Madhya Kshetra Basmati Rice Exporters Association

All the nine oppositions were disposed off by the GI registry on 31.12.2013. Of the nine oppositions, six oppositions including those from (i) to (iii) above were with respect to the non-inclusion of 13 districts of Madhya Pradesh in the GI application filed by APEDA. For these 6 oppositions, a common order has been given, wherein the oppositions have been allowed and APEDA has been directed to file an amended GI application, including the uncovered area, within 60 days from the date of the order. Order further provides that appeal relating to the proceedings may be preferred to Intellectual Property Appellate Board, Chennai.

(c) No such oppositions from agricultural scientists have been received by GI Registry under the GI Act.