

creating infrastructure, etc. for promotion and development of wrestling. Further, to promote wrestling, permission to hold Pro Wrestling League has been given with the objective of giving exposure to Indian wrestlers to play with foreign wrestlers.

Promotion and development of specific sports disciplines is mainly the responsibility of the concerned National Sports Federations (NSFs). Government supplements the efforts of the NSFs by providing financial assistance to the NSFs under the scheme of Assistance to NSFs for various activities such as holding coaching camps for national level sportspersons, zonal and national championships for sub-junior, junior and senior categories, organizing international tournaments in India, training and participation of sportspersons/teams in international tournaments abroad, procurement of sports and sports science equipment and consumables, engagement of foreign coaches/experts to train athletes, etc.

For giving incentives to the players and coaches, the Ministry is implementing scheme of Special Awards to medal winners in international sports events and their coaches, under which cash awards to sportspersons and their coaches, including those belonging to discipline of wrestling, are given for the medals won in international sports events in respect of sports disciplines included in Olympic Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, etc. The scheme of Special Awards was revised on 29.01.2015, under which the amounts of cash awards were substantially enhanced. Further, for providing financial security to the sportspersons including those belonging to the discipline of wrestling, the Ministry is implementing 'Scheme of Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons', under which lifelong monthly pension is given to the sportspersons, who have won medals in Olympic Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Para-Olympics and World Championships in sports disciplines included in Olympic Games and Asian Games after they have attained the age of 30 years or have retired from active sports, whichever is earlier.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Exports of fruits and vegetables

1. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of exports of fruits and vegetables from India including the State of Kerala during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) whether many export consignments from India like fruits and vegetables are having entry restrictions in US, UK and European Union and few other countries;

(c) if so, the details regarding the reasons for the ban in these countries; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to negotiate with respective Governments for the lifting of entry restrictions on Indian fruits and vegetables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The details of exports of fruits and vegetables from India, during the last three years and the current year, are as under:

Product Name	(Quantity in MT; Value in ₹ crore)							
	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16 (April-December)*	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Fresh Vegetables	2343.88	3407.19	2291.75	5384.47	2061.00	4666.45	1249.04	3593.20
Fresh Fruits	534.62	2686.57	525.22	3645.62	486.94	3160.08	313.85	2010.12
Processed Vegetables	NA	1102.56	NA	1288.86	NA	1721.89	NA	1163.62
Processed Fruits and Juices	NA	2577.32	NA	3332.05	NA	3626.86	NA	2720.48
TOTAL	9773.64		13651.00		13175.28		9487.42	

Source: DGCIS.

*Provisional

Separate figures for the State of Kerala are not available as State-wise data is not maintained.

(b) and (c) The European Union (EU) had placed import restrictions on five fruits and vegetables: mango, bitter gourd, snake gourd, eggplant and taro leaves with effect from May, 2014. The restrictions were imposed due to interception of quarantine pests in consignments of these commodities.

(d) The matter has been consistently taken up with the EU authorities by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), an autonomous organisation under the Department of Commerce, in consultation with the Indian Embassy in EU. Due to these efforts, the import restriction on mango has since been lifted *w.e.f.* February, 2015. The issue of lifting of import restrictions on the remaining four vegetables is being pursued through bilateral discussions.