

| Year | Quantity of spices export (MT) | Value of spices export (US\$ Million) |
|---------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2012-13 | 726613 | 2212.13 |
| 2013-14 | 817250 | 2267.67 |
| 2014-15 | 893920 | 2432.85 |

The export of chilli during 2014-15 was 3,47,000 MT which showed an increase of around 11% as compared to previous year. During the 2015-16 (April to December), export of chilli was 2,53,000 MT.

(c) For boosting export of quality spices, the Government of India through the Spices Board implements several development and promotion programmes including, *inter-alia*, development of infrastructure for common processing facilities in Spice Parks, adoption of upgraded technology in spice processing, setting up of quality evaluation labs, quality certification and training of laboratory personnel, assistance to farmers on post harvest quality improvement, imparting training to farmers in Good Agricultural Practices, participation in International Trade Fairs/Meetings and Promotion of Indian Spice Brands Abroad etc.

E-chilli project in Guntur, A.P.

1928. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Guntur Regional Office of Spices Board has started e-chilli project on pilot basis in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of the project;

(c) the status of implementation of the above project in Guntur, Prakasam, Warangal and Khammam districts of AP and Telangana;

(d) whether there is any plan to introduce such e-projects in other spices; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) The Government, through the Spices Board is implementing the e-Spice Bazaar Traceability Project in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States in order to facilitate aggregation of farmers' produce mainly chilli and turmeric, and to provide online platform for buyers and sellers of chilli and turmeric so that the farmers get better price for their produce.

Major objective of the project is to utilize the power of media, web and mobile to reach targeted farmers and improve their ability to negotiate with traders while encouraging active enrolment and involvement of agricultural input providers, warehousing facility providers, logistic service support providers, banks and insurers on the electronic platform, and also to improve food safety and traceability etc.

(c) Implementation of the project involves various phases, the first phase covering 1,000 Chilli farmers of Edlapad Mandal of Guntur district, while 10,000 Chilli farmers of Guntur district and 1000 Turmeric farmers of selected Mandals of Guntur district are included in the second phase. The third phase includes 10,000 Chilli farmers each from Warangal and Khammam districts of Telangana, 10,000 Chilli farmers of Prakasam district, 5,000 Turmeric farmers of Guntur district, and 5,000 Turmeric farmers in Telangana. Currently, the project implementation is in its first phase.

(d) and (e) There is no plan to introduce e-initiatives in other Spice crops at present.

Ratification of WTO's TFA on goods

1929. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to ratify WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) on goods very soon;

(b) to what extent Government has to relax customs rules once TFA is accepted; and

(c) how Government is working with other countries for a TFA in services since 60 per cent of trade constitutes services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) India ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) on goods on 22nd April, 2016.

(b) India is compliant of most of the provisions of TFA. In some areas like Advance ruling, release of goods before final determination of duty etc. certain legislative amendments and changes in procedures are required, for which Government is entitled to transition time.

(c) Services are an important part of India's trade and India is endeavouring to promote and facilitate its services trade by seeking the removal of trade restrictive measures adopted by various countries.