

Rejection of seafood exports by the US

1026. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that of late rejections of Indian seafood exports are on the rise by the United States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what are the main reasons for these rejections; and

(c) what remedial measures Government proposes to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) The data for rejection of Indian Seafood exports for the last 3 years and current year is as under:

| Sl. No. | Year | No. of consignments refused due to Antibiotics | No. of consignments refused due to other parameters | Total No. of consignments refused |
|---------|-------|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | 2013 | 3 | 30 | 33 |
| 2. | 2014 | 8 | 32 | 40 |
| 3. | 2015 | 15 | 28 | 43 |
| 4. | 2016* | 17 | 16 | 33 |

*(Jan-June) 2016

Main reasons for such import refusals/rejections are presence of pathogenic bacteria (Salmonella) and banned veterinary drug residues (Antibiotics) in aquacultured shrimps etc.

(c) Remedial measures taken by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), an autonomous organization under the Department of Commerce, to bring down the number of rejections include operating a nationwide network of ELISA labs and sophisticated quality control labs, good extension services to all stakeholders in shrimp aquaculture, appropriate training in Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point System (HACCP) etc. Moreover, Export Inspection Council (EIC), a statutory organization under the Department of Commerce who has regulatory oversight over the marine exports have signed confidentiality agreement with USFDA for sharing all the related information which will enable EIC to find out the root cause of the import refusal. Also majority of aquaculture processing/exporting establishments have installed in-house ELISA facility to undertake screening of banned antibiotics.