

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 544**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 23<sup>rd</sup> JULY, 2021**

**PUSH TO FOOD EXPORTS**

544. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of global food prices since April, 2020, till date, month-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that prices of cereals are also on the rise;
- (c) if so, how the Ministry looks at the rapid rise in global food prices and details of factors leading to this rise; and
- (d) the efforts being made by the Ministry to push our food exports which help to reduce excess stocks and also earn foreign exchange?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) Month-wise details of FAO (Food & Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations) Food Price Index, which is a measure of the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities, for the period April 2020 to June 2021, are as under:

Base: 2014-16 = 100

Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21
92.4	91.0	93.1	93.9	95.8	97.9	101.2	105.5	108.5	113.3	116.4	119.1	121.9	127.8	124.6

Source: FAO

(b & c) The prices of cereals are also on the rise. The FAO Food Price Index for Cereals has risen from 99.3 in April 2020 to 129.4 in June 2021. The rising global prices provide an opportunity for food exports benefiting farmers.

(d) Promotion of exports of agricultural products, including food products, is an ongoing process. To promote agricultural exports, the Government has introduced a comprehensive

Agriculture Export Policy (AEP) to harness export potential of Indian agriculture and raise farmers' income. Department of Commerce, has taken several steps to implement AEP at State/District level. State Level Monitoring Committees (SLMCs), Nodal Agencies for agricultural exports and Cluster Level Committees have been formed in a number of States and State-specific Action Plans have been prepared. Country and product-specific action plans have also been formulated to promote exports.

A Farmer Connect Portal has been set up for providing a platform for farmers, Farmer-Producer Organizations (FPOs) and cooperatives to interact with exporters. Buyer-Seller Meets (BSMs) have been organized in the clusters to provide export-market linkages. Regular interactions, through video-conferences, have been held with the Indian Missions abroad to assess and exploit export opportunities. Country specific BSMs, through Indian Missions, have also been organized.

Department of Commerce provides assistance through several other schemes to promote exports, including food export, viz. Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES), Market Access Initiatives (MAI) Scheme, etc. In addition, assistance to the exporters of food products is also available under the export promotion schemes of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Tea Board, Coffee Board and Spices Board.

Government has also introduced a Central Sector Scheme – 'Transport and Marketing Assistance for Specified Agriculture Products' – for providing assistance for the international component of freight to mitigate the freight disadvantage for the export of agriculture products.

As a result of these initiatives by the Government, India's agriculture exports during 2020-21 have registered an increase of 17.37% as compared to exports during 2019-20. Exceptional increase has been registered in the exports of items such as Wheat (775.03%), Non Basmati Rice (136.30%), Vegetable Oils (254.94%), Other Cereals (238.57%), Oil Meals (90.31%) and Cotton (79.43%)

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