

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 362
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04th FEBRUARY, 2022

EXPORT TARGET

362 SHRI N.R. ELANGO:

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

- (a) whether Government agrees with the view that it is important to evaluate Minimum Support Price (MSP) as a policy option as well as the Agriculture Export Policy (AEP)-2018, to achieve the target of decent farm income;
- (b) if so, the steps that are proposed to be taken by Government keeping in mind that India has to set a target to export at least 10 per cent share in the global market, which is currently at mere 2.2 per cent; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the importance of Minimum Support Price (MSP) and agriculture exports for increasing farmers' income.

Promotion of exports of agricultural products is a continuous process. To promote agricultural exports, the Government has taken several steps at State/ District levels. State specific Action Plans have been prepared and State Level Monitoring Committees (SLMCs), Nodal Agencies for agricultural exports and Cluster Level Committees have been formed in a number of States. Country and product-specific action plans have also been formulated to promote exports. It has also been decided that the District as Export Hub Initiative of the Department of Commerce would be utilized to achieve the objectives of Agriculture Export Policy.

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 videoconferences, have been held with the Indian Missions abroad, to assess and exploit export opportunities. Country specific BSMs, through Indian Missions, have also been organized.

The 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.

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