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

**RAJYA SABHA**
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1924**
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 23rd DECEMBER, 2022**

**HURDLES IN EXPORTING BASMATI RICE**

1924   SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:

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

(a)   whether Government has taken measures to redress the hurdles in exporting basmati rice to Europe due to the increase in the pesticide residue level in the rice exported from India, if so, the details thereof;

(b)   whether Government has also taken adequate measures to contain the excessive use of pesticides and fungicides to contain its residue levels in grains as a part of seamless export of agri- produces like rice and wheat; and

(c)    if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c):   The Government has taken several measures to contain pesticide and fungicide residue levels in Basmati rice and other food-grains to ensure their seamless export to Europe and other destinations. The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), a statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India, has authorized around 35 National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited laboratories for pre-export testing for pesticide residues in rice and other cereals. Pre-shipment testing for 22 pesticide residues has been made mandatory for export of Basmati rice to European Union.

The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, in association with APEDA and State Departments of Agriculture, has developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for judicious use of pesticides and adoption of Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs) so that the pesticide residues in Basmati rice can be eliminated. APEDA has also been organising Outreach Programmes for Basmati growers, exporters and other stakeholders to create awareness on the issue of pesticide residues.

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