

Variety of paddy	MSP per quintal
Common	Rs. 530*
Grade 'A'	Rs. 560*

*This does not include the Special Drought Relief Price of Rs. 20 per quintal.

3. Rice is allocated to various State Governments/Union Territory Administrations under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for distribution to various categories of consumers at fixed Central Issue Prices. In addition, rice is also allocated to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for distribution under other Welfare Schemes.

India's help to safeguard Iranian oil tankers

*246. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iran has sought India's help to safeguard transiting oil tankers in the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

India's share in international IT market

†*247. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite swift development of the Indian information technology industry the country's share in international industrial market is only 1.6 per cent and the country depends mainly on North-American market where 67 per cent of software is exported from India; and

(b) if so, the details of the measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government to increase the export of Indian Software to the fast growing markets of Germany, Japan, France and other countries in order to reduce dependence on North-American market?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The Indian IT industry has share of about 1.8 per cent of the global market during 2001-2002 in export of computer software and services.

The export increased from Rs. 28350 crores in 2000-01 to Rs. 36500 crores in 2001-02.

North America continues to be the major export destination for export of Indian computer software and services. However, there has been gradual increase in export to other countries of Europe, Latin America and Asian Region including Japan. Details of the export destinations in 2001-02 are as follows:

<input type="checkbox"/> America	: 63%
<input type="checkbox"/> Europe	: 26%
<input type="checkbox"/> Japan	: 4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Rest of World (RoW)	: 7%

(b) Government has taken following steps to promote export of computer software and services to destinations other than North America:

- (i) Awareness programs and focussed Road Shows in collaboration with the Industry, organized periodically in potential markets such as EU, Japan, Latin America etc.
- (ii) Financial support to industry for organizing and participating in international fairs, exhibitions & conferences for marketing Indian strength in the sector.
- (iii) Bilateral cooperation strengthened with countries of Europe, Latin America, Japan, Australia and Asian region by entering into Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs). These MoUs have been used to provide platform for the industry to establish contacts with counterparts in these countries and to explore and increase possibilities of exports.

Flexible labour laws for new industries

***248. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a plan for making flexible labour laws for new industries;