

the afore-mentioned special category States have adverse geographical locations and other specificities.

Criteria for selective export of rice

1408. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) what are the criteria applied for identification of rice varieties for selective exports;
- (b) what are the varieties of rice that may be allowed for exports;
- (c) whether Government is maintaining balance among different regions of the country while selecting the varieties of rice for export;
- (d) what is the quantity of rice proposed to be allowed for exports; and
- (c) whether this is likely to have any impact on the availability of rice within the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (e) The production of rice is primarily meant for the domestic consumption. However, agricultural products that are in surplus and where their export do not have any adverse impact on the overall food security of the nation are allowed to be exported. India has been a major exporter of Basmati rice and it's export is allowed subject to a Minimum Export Price (MEP), as decided by Government, from time to time. Currently, the MEP for export of Basmati rice is US \$ 900 per metric tonne. Since April, 2008, export of Non-Basmati rice has been banned. Recently, with sufficient availability of rice in the Central Pool and in view of the demand for some high priced speciality rice by the Indian diaspora, Government has decided to allow export of 1.5 lakh tonnes of some premium varieties of Non-Basmati rice viz. Sona Masuri, Matta and Ponni. Export of high priced Basmati rice and other specialty rice as mentioned above in small quantities do not have any adverse impact on the availability of rice in the country when compared to the total production of rice in the country.

FDI since opening of the cash and carry sector

1409. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the total FDI attracted since the opening of the cash and carry sector in 2006;
- (b) how many players have invested in the cash and carry segment in the country and what is the difference between proposed and actual investment of these players;