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# Japan to soon resolve chemical issue in Indian shrimp

PTI

New Delhi, 12 September 2013: Indian shrimp exporters would soon be able to enhance their shipments to Japan as the later has agreed to resolve the issue pertaining to the chemical used as feed and preservative for the marine product by end of the year.

The matter was raised by Commerce and Industry Anand Sharma during his meeting with Japan Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Toshimitsu Motegi here yesterday.

"Japan has agreed to resolve the issues facing Indian marine exporters regarding the level of Ethoxyquin in shrimps by the year end," on official statement said.

Sharma has conveyed the Japanese Minister that Indian products meet the standards of sensitive markets like the EU.

Sharma has asked Motegi, who is leading a business delegation, to expedite the matter within a specific time frame.

"We have received the request. The concerned agencies are engaged with the same. They have been asked to look into a solution by year end," the statement quoting Motegi said.

Shrimp exports to Japan, one of the major buyer countries of the seafood, has been severely hit after the Japanese authorities said they detected ethoxyquin in the shrimps, an antioxidant used as a preservative and also used in shrimp feed.

Japan, which has lowered the acceptable level of ethoxyquin in shrimps, had rejected several Indian consignments of the seafood.

Odisha and West Bengal are the major shrimp exporters. In 2012-13, export of frozen shrimp has declined by 11 per cent in quantity terms and 22 per cent in dollar terms mainly due to the ethoxyquin issue.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh too had raised the issue in light of the fact that the move has severely affected the marine export from India.

Further, the statement said India and Japan has yesterday charted out a roadmap to boost investment.

"Japan has shown tremendous interest that will lead not only to foreign investment flows, but also bring in a culture of quality and high-end management practices in Indian industry along with creation and strengthening supply chains," Sharma said.

Bilateral trade between the two countries was USD 18.51 billion in 2012-13. Besides, India has received USD 14.75 billion FDI from Japan between April 2000 and June 2013. The Japanese investment accounts for 7 per cent of India's total FDI.

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# US not to impose countervailing duty on Indian shrimp exports

PTI

New Delhi, 23 September 2013: The United States has said it will not impose countervailing duty on imports of frozen warm water shrimp from India and six other countries.

The United States International Trade Commission (USITC) has said that the US industry is "neither materially injured nor threatened with material injury" by reason of imports of frozen warm water shrimp from countries including India, China, Ecuador, Malaysia, and Vietnam.

As per the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, a country can launch its own investigation and ultimately charge extra duty (countervailing duty) on subsidised imports which it finds are hurting domestic producers.

"As a result of the USITC's negative determinations, US Commerce will not issue countervailing duty orders on imports of these products from India. The decision brings a great relief to Indian shrimp industry and its exports," an official statement said today.

According to an industry estimate, India's seafood exports including frozen shrimp stood at USD 3.5 billion in 2012-13. About a fifth of the exports were to the US.

The decision comes ahead of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's scheduled visit to Washington later this week.

The USITC imposed a 5.85 per cent countervailing duty on Indian shrimp exports last year in response to alleged price advantages enjoyed by Indian exporters due to government subsidies.

The final decision of the USITC came in favour of India and six other countries and negate the US Department of Commerce's (USDOC) decision.

"Due to this, none of the seven countries including India need to pay duties for their shrimp exports to US," it said.

In December 2012, the Coalition of Gulf Shrimp Industries filed a petition claiming that subsidies provided by the Indian government to its shrimp industry gives an unfair advantage to the country's shrimp exports to the US, resulting in Indian exporters selling their products at lower prices.

It also said that if countervailing duty was imposed, it would have helped Thailand and Indonesia to monopolise the US shrimp market, and market access of Indian shrimp would have been affected.

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# Seafood exports in April-December at all-time high of \$3.66 bn

Financial Express

Kochi, 6 February 2014: Seafood exports in the first three quarters of the current fiscal have reached an all-time high of \$3.66 billion dollar, mostly due to higher exports of frozen shrimp, officials at the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) said.

Exports during the nine-month period aggregated 6,92,299 tonne, valued at Rs21,828.89 crore compared to 7,21,182 tonne valued at Rs14,811.29 crores during the same period of 2012-13. The volume of exports has decreased by 4% while the realisation has increased 47 % in rupee terms and 33 % in dollar terms. Total seafood exports during FY13 aggregated 9,28,215 tonne valued at Rs18,856.26 crore, or \$3511.67 million.

MPEDA sources said that frozen shrimp continued to be the principal item, both in volume and dollar terms, with a share of 33.08% and 65.41%, respectively. The overall exports of shrimp in April-December 2013-14 were to the tune of 2,29,010 tonne, worth \$2,396.30 million. Exports of shrimp recorded growth of 27.55 % in volume and 70.53 % in dollar terms compared to the same period of 2012-13. Unit value realisation also increased 33.69%. The contribution of cultured shrimp to total shrimp exports is 77.68%. Southeast Asia continues to be the largest buyer, with 38% in terms of volume. The US became the largest buyer with 27.25 % in terms of the value realised in dollars, followed by Southeast Asia at 26.01%.

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# WTO talks: Don't harp only on fishery sops, says India

Amiti Sen, Business Line (The Hindu)

New Delhi, 19 May 2014: India has said that negotiations on tightening fishery subsidies at the World Trade Organization (WTO) pushed by the European Union, New Zealand and Chile should take place only after there is substantial progress in the areas of agriculture, industrial goods and services.

Warning against 'cherry-picking' of issues, the Centre said that the proposal to curb such subsidies to clamp down on over-fishing should not be singled out as several other related areas such as anti-dumping are part of the working programme on rules.

In a recent meeting of the WTO's Negotiation Group on Rules, a handful of countries, including the EU, New Zealand, Chile, the US, the Philippines and Australia, said discipline in this area should be central to any Doha Round work programme. They argued that global fish stocks continued to fall while harmful fish subsidies continued to increase.

"There is an ongoing attempt at WTO by developed countries to identify individual issues and try to push for an agreement, completely ignoring the agenda of the Doha Development Round. We have to guard against it," a Commerce Ministry official told *Business Line*.

India has called for exclusion of small and marginal fishermen from the multilateral curbs in the negotiations on fishery subsidies, stating that livelihoods of lakhs of poor families in India depend on fishing.

The Doha Round, launched in 2001 to open up markets in agriculture and industrial goods and services, is in a logjam, but members agreed to deliver on a small package of issues at Bali last year, reviving interest in the round.

In Bali, the developed countries managed to get through an agreement on trade facilitation — a pact to smoothen trade by improving infrastructure and reducing paperwork.

In return, India and some other developing countries were given a reprieve against action on the subsidies given by them to farmers for buying crops for their food security programme. A promise was made that a long-term solution to the issue would be taken on priority-basis after the Bali meeting.

"Although we agreed on a trade facilitation pact, we do not want pacts on individual issues to become a rule. The Doha Round has to be agreed upon in full and the developed countries can't cherry-pick issues that they want to push. We are also determined to ensure that our problems related to subsidising our food security programme is settled at the earliest," the official said.

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