



No.137 - CM/2022

November 02, 2022

Respected Prime Minister,

The 'Gobindobhog' rice variety is very popular particularly for offerings to the Almighty throughout the country and also abroad especially in Europe and gulf countries and enjoys good demand.

Pure 'Gobindobhog' rice is grown in few districts of West Bengal and it has been awarded Geographic Identification vide certificate no. 297 dated 24th October, 2017. It fetches much higher price than the MSP for rice. In our efforts since 2011 to enhance the income of our farmers, we have been promoting production of this premium variety 'Gobindobhog' in suitable areas substituting coarse grain rice.

Along with extension of production in area suitable for this premium variety 'Gobindobhog' rice, we have also been encouraging its export to create sustained demand abroad of this premium variety. Currently, it enjoys growing demand abroad including countries in the gulf region viz. KSA, UAE, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait etc.

Unfortunately, Government of India has imposed 20% Customs Duty on rice vide notification no. 49/2022 dated 8.9.2022. As a result of which the export business of the premium 'Gobindobhog' variety, developed through years of efforts, has been badly affected with negative impact on the demand and domestic price of the paddy, and hence on the income of farmers.

It is appreciated that 'Basmati', another popular high value aromatic rice variety has been exempted from the 20% Customs Duty. It is, therefore, requested on the same logic by which 'Basmati' has been exempted, the premium aromatic variety 'Gobindobhog' rice should also be exempted from such 20% Customs Duty on export at an early date to avoid loss of business and depriving benefit to our farmers.

মমতা ব্যানার্জী
ममता बैनर्जी
ممتا بنر جي
Mamata Banerjee



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وزیر اعلیٰ مغربی بنگال
CHIEF MINISTER, WEST BENGAL

May I request you, Sir, to kindly issue necessary instructions for extending similar exemption of the duty on export to the premium aromatic variety 'Gobindobhog' rice (GI no. 297) at the earliest.

With regards

Yours sincerely,

(Mamata Banerjee)

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
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