

Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *184

TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2023

PRODUCTION OF PIGEON PEA

*184. DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S.: DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:

Will the Minister of **CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the total production of pigeon pea and black gram during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether prices of tur (pigeon pea) and black gram pulses has risen sharply in the open market and if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has directed the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation and National Cooperative Consumer Federation to offload pigeon peas from federal stockpiles through online auctions among millers to bring down the prices of pigeon peas and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the constraints faced by the Government to control the prices of pigeon pea and black gram;
- (e) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for procurement of pulses with the objective of minimizing the effect of scarcity of pulses and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the other steps taken by the Government to control the prices of pigeon pea and black gram in the open market?

ANSWER

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री
(श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (f) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*184 FOR 02.08.2023 REGARDING PRODUCTION OF PIGEON PEA.

(a) : The total production of pigeon pea (tur) and black gram (urad) during each of the last three years and the current year are as under:

Year	Pigeon pea (Tur) (in Lakh Tonnes)	Black Gram (Urad) (in Lakh Tonnes)
2019-20	38.92	20.81
2020-21	43.16	22.30
2021-22	42.20	27.76
2022-23 (3 rd Advance Estimates)	34.30	26.12

(b) to (d) : The all-India average retail prices of tur dal and urad dal have increased by 28.31% and 8.07%, respectively on year-on-year basis. On month-on-month basis, the increase in the retail prices of tur dal and urad dal are 4.40% and 1.23%, respectively. The increase in the retail prices of tur dal and urad dal are attributed to lower domestic production in 2022-23 on account of adverse weather conditions and the attack of tur crop by wilt disease in Karnataka and Maharashtra. The Government has directed National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) on 26.06.2023 to dispose pigeon pea from the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) buffer through online auction to millers in a calibrated manner to augment availability of tur dal to the consumers. A tentative target of 50,000 MT has been fixed for disposal. Till date, 4,236.59 MT has been disposed. The prices of pulses, including pigeon pea and black gram are observed to fluctuate from year to year due to variations in production on account of changes in area coverage in response to the price realisation by farmers, weather condition etc. Prices are also subject to seasonal fluctuations due to high and low consumption months, harvest and market arrival and also by market sentiments generated by sowing progress, crop condition and trade situation.

(e) & (f) : The Government undertakes the procurement of pulses at Minimum Support Price (MSP) under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers. Pulses are also procured under the PSF to meet the buffer requirement. In order to incentivise domestic production of pigeon pea, black gram and lentils and minimize the import requirements, the Government has announced the removal of 40% ceiling on PSS procurement of these pulses during 2023-24.

In order to augment the domestic availability of pigeon pea and black gram and check the increase in prices the import of these pulses has been kept under 'Free Category' till 31.03.2024, and import duty of 10% on pigeon pea has been removed to facilitate smooth and seamless imports. To prevent hoarding, stock limits have been imposed on pigeon pea and black gram under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 on 2nd June, 2023 till 31st October, 2023. The stocks held by entities such as traders, dealers, importers and millers are being continuously monitored through the online stock disclosure portal. Further, the ongoing disposal of pigeon pea from the buffer is undertaken to check the increase in prices of tur dal.
