

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2496
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2000
IMPORT OF RICE FROM PAKISTAN
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether traders in coastal States find it cheaper to import rice from Pakistan than procuring from local markets;
- (b) if so, whether more than 50,000 tonnes has already been contracted by traders in Mumbai for sale in the markets of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh; (
- (c) whether the Government permits free import of 50% and above broken rice;
- (d) if so, whether due to the bumper crops, Government propose to stop the import of rice; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to stop the import of rice from Pakistan?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

- (a) In the absence of information on the varieties traded and consumer preferences prevailing it would be inaccurate to confirm that imported Pakistan rice is cheaper than rice procured from local markets.
- (b) Data on import contracts of rice entered into by traders is not maintained.
- (c) As per EXIM Policy, import of rice is canalised through FC I Import of common/coarse varieties of rice and rice, with 50% or more broken is currently on OGL w.e.f. 27.5.97.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) The concerned have been directed to step up inspections to verify/ensure that the varieties being imported are only common/coarse and that the broken percentages are 50% or more.