

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4269

ANSWERED ON:20.04.2000

IMPORT OF EDIBLE OIL

A. VENKATESH NAIK;GADDE RAMAMOCHAN;GORDHANBHAI JAVIA;M.V.V.S MURTHI;RUDRAGOUDA PATIL;SHVAJI MANE;SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Mustard growers concerned over import of edible oil' appeared in 'The Hindustan Times' dated March 26, 2000;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) the reaction of the Union Government on the suggestions made in convention ; and
- (d) the further steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There continues to be shortfall between demand and net availability of edible oils in the country. On the basis of the Agriculture Ministry's advance estimates of the oilseed production of 216.2 lakh tonnes for the year 1999-2000, the shortfall of oilseeds is likely to be more than 3 million tonnes. In order to ensure availability of edible oils at reasonable prices to the consumers, Government has had to allow import of edible oils on OGL. As per trade and industry, import of edible oils in the year 1998-99 was 43.9 lakh tonnes.

(c) & (d) : Some of the important steps taken by the Government to restrain import of edible oils are :-

- (i) hike in the import duty on refined edible oils from 16.5% to 27.5%.
- (ii) stipulation of 'actual user' condition for import of crude oils.
- (iii) Higher custom duty at 38.5% for crude oils as also other refined oils imported by other than actual users.
- (iv) imposition of SAD @ 4% for import of edible oils not fulfilling the requirement of actual user condition.