

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4004

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2001

IMPORT OF EDIBLE OIL

H.G. RAMULU;JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI;K. FRANCIS GEORGE;RATTAN LAL KATARIA;SULTAN SALAHUDDIN
OWAIS;TUFANI SAROJ;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

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

- (a) whether the import of edible oil is more than its demand in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the same and the quantity of edible oil imported during the last three years, year-wise and also during current year alongwith the names of the countries from where imported;
- (c) whether more import of edible oils during the recent years have adversely effected the domestic industry;
- (d) if so, whether the Union Government have initiated steps in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Union Government have worked out any concrete action plan to increase the output of edible oil in the country;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) the estimated amount spent on the import of oilseeds, pulses and edible oil during the last three years and in current year?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
V.SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): As per the EXIM Policy import of edible oils except coconut oil is under Open General Licence(OGL)As such, the quantity of import would depend upon the commercial judgement of the importers. Import of edible oils during the last three years and also during current year is as under:

Year	Quantity (MT)
1998-99	2621851
1999-2000	4195638
2000-2001	3974638
2001-2002 (April-Sept.)	2466220

Major countries from which edible oil is imported are - Argentina, Brazil, Indonesia and Malaysia.

(c): No, Sir.

(d)&(e): Does not arise.

(f)&(g): Some of the steps taken/efforts made to increase the indigenous production of oilseeds and hence of edible oils are:

(i) Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme is in implementation in 25 Statescovering 395 selected districts to increase the production of oilseeds/edible oils in the country. Under the programme financial assistance is provided for the critical inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, gypsum/pyrites, micronutrients, rhyzobium culture etc. to the farmers through State Governments. In addition to this, frontline and general demonstrations are also organised on the farmers fields to disseminate the improved production and protection technologies.

(ii) A Technology Mission on Oilseeds was established in May 1986 for harnessing the best production, processing and management technology.

(iii) Intensification of research efforts for increasing production of oilseeds.

(iv) Increasing the areas under non-traditional oilseeds crops like soyabean and sunflower, exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, ricebran etc.

(v) Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities to keep pace with the production programme of oilseeds.

(vi) Assistance for oil palm development.

(vii) Better incentive to producers through fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of major oilseeds.

(viii) Use of indigenous oils in the manufacture of vanaspati to at least 25% of the production on a monthly basis has been made mandatory. Also, higher use of expeller mustard oil in the manufacture of vanaspati up to 30% has also been allowed. The objective is to incentivise the farmers in terms of better returns for their produce.

(ix) In order to harmonise the interests of domestic oilseeds, growers, consumers and processors and to regulate large import of edible oils to the extent possible, the duty structure on edible oils is revised from time to time.

(h): The amount spent on the import of oilseeds, pulses and edible oil during the last three years and in current year is annexed.

ANNEXTURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (h) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4004 DUE ANSWER ON 14.12.2001 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(Value in Rs. Crore)

1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02 (April-Sept.)	Value
Value	Value	Value	Value	

Vaigetgable Oils

(Edible)	7588.93	8046.05	5932.76	3524.06
Pulses	708.81	354.69	493.79	1461.00
Oil Seeds	8.52	15.42	7.89	1.11