

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5038

ANSWERED ON:27.04.2000

IMPORT OF WHEAT

ARUN KUMAR;PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL;SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA

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

- (a) whether the wheat has been imported on the large scale from the countries like Australia and Brazil during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the quantity and rate of import, country-wise, year-wise;
- (c) whether the price of the wheat imported from other countries was less than that of wheat produced in the country;
- (d) if so, whether the rate of production of wheat in the said countries is less than India;
- (e) if so, the reasons for higher price of wheat in India in comparison to the said countries;
- (f) whether the Government propose to ban the import of wheat in the interest of Indian farmers; (g) if so, the details thereof; (h) whether FCI has been allowed to intervene in the market in this regard; and (i) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN)

(a) & (b): The details of wheat imported on Government account during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are as under:-

Year Country Quantity (in lakh tones) Price PMP (in US\$)

1997-98	Australia	2.43	153.40 (FOB)
	7.75	152.65 (FOB)	
1998-99	Australia	14.15	142.50 (FOB)
1999-2000	-	-	

(c) & (e): It is not possible to compare the international and domestic prices of wheat as they depend on the international demand and supply position, consumer preferences and other terms of trade. However, liberalization of trade has led to increased availability of commodities to consumers, sometimes at prices that put the domestic produce at a disadvantage.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(f),(g),(h) &

(i): There is no proposal to ban import of wheat at present. However, Government has imposed 50% duty on wheat imports w.e.f. 1.12.1999, which has checked the import of wheat on private account also.