

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6993  
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2000  
IMPORT OF EDIBLE OILS  
RATTAN LAL KATARIA

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

- (a) whether the gap between demand and production of oilseeds is widening each year necessitating import of oilseeds in large volume;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether due to adulteration in mustard oil sharp rise was recorded in the prices of edible oils during 1998-99;
- (d) if so, the latest position thereof;
- (e) whether due to import of edible oil the crops of edible oil seeds in India has declined; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(SHRIV. SREENVASA PRASAD)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The production of oilseeds, the net availability of edible oils and the demand for edible oils in the last 3 years are given below :-

(Figures in Lakh MT)

Year	Oilseed	Net availability of	Import	Consumption
	edible oils	(Supply)		
1997-98	213.24	62.00	20.83	82.83
1998-99	252.10	72.60	43.93	116.53
1999-2000	216.20	64.78	36.00	100.78

Estimated Consumption has been taken to be the demand.

(c) & (d) : The adulteration in mustard oil and subsequent measures taken by the Government in 1998-99 to ensure safe and quality edible oils in the open market temporarily affected the distribution of oils in the market resulting in some increase in prices. The main reasons for the sharp rise in prices of edible oils were the widely publicised report of set back to the domestic oilseed production and high international prices of edible oils. This will be clear from the prices of edible oils in the international market as shown below for the months of April to May in the last 3 years during 1998 to 2000 :-

(Prices per MT in USD FOB)

Year	RBD	Palmolein	Soyabean Oil	Sunflower Oil
	April	May	April	May

1998	686	709	638	651	671	737
1999	509	476	421	405	451	454
2000	365	327.5	395	395	425	400

(e) & (f) : A major reason for the low production of oilseeds is the low productivity of our oilseeds cultivation compared to the situation in other countries as may be observed from the table below :-

Productivity of oilseeds  
(Tonne/Hectare)

Oilseed	India	World Average	Highest
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Soyabean	0.96	2.25	3.05 (EU - 15)
Cottonseed	0.62	1.02	2.11 (Australia)
Groundnut	0.74	0.99	3.00 (EU - 15)
Sunflower	0.62	1.28	2.25 (Chile)
Rapeseed	0.90	1.50	3.01 (EU - 15)

Government has set up a Technology Mission on oilseeds and pulses for harnessing the best of technology on production and processing.