

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7018
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2002
AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS
A.D.K. JEYASEELAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to the latest Economic Survey the value of agricultural imports has declined in the last year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have come across any shortcoming in use of the credit cards by 5 million farmers, who have availed this facility; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps initiated to remedy the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): As per the latest Economic Survey, the total import of agricultural products has declined from US \$ 2919 million in 1998-99 to US \$ 2858 million in 1999-2000 and further to US \$ 1858 in the year 2000-01. The share of agricultural imports in the total imports of the country has also declined from 6.9% in 1998-99 to 3.7% in 2000-01. The decline is mainly a result of decrease in import of cereals and sugar.

(c) & (d): The Kisan Credit Card Scheme is a hassle free mechanism for dispensation of crop loans with a validity of 3 years. The Scheme has found wide acceptability among the users. No specific shortcoming in the implementation of scheme has been reported. However, some constraints were observed in implementation of KCC Scheme. The constraints and the steps taken to remedy the same are as follows:

? Some banks, particularly cooperative banks have not been extending the facility of frequent drawals to the cardholders, thus curtailing the very basic facility extended under the KCC. NABARD immediately brought to the notice of the concerned authorities, wherever such instances were reported, to rectify the shortcomings.

? Some of the State Governments are reportedly levying stamp duty for loans under KCC and not for normal crop loans. The matter has been taken up with the concerned State Government through State level bankers' committee. ? In some of the places it has been reported that banks have been insisting for collateral security for issuing KCC. NABARD has advised the banks to strictly adhere to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines in this regard.