

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:62

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005

SHORTAGE OF ONION

Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total production of onion recorded this year in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the quantity of onion exported during the last three years and thereafter till date, country- wise alongwith the foreign exchange earned therefrom;
- (c) whether there has been an acute shortage of onion in the country in the months of September and October this year leading to steep hike in prices of onion;
- (d) if so, the factors attributed thereto;
- (e) the quantum of onion imported during the last two months country-wise and the amount spent thereon;
- (f) the extent to which it has helped in bringing down the prices in the domestic market;
- (g) the steps taken to boost production of onion, particularly in scarcity affected States; and
- (h) the measures proposed to be taken to contain the prices of onion and also to provide relief to the affected farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (h): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 62 DUE FOR REPLY ON 28TH NOVEMBER, 2005.

(a) to (h): Total estimated onion production during the year 2004-05 in the country, State wise is given in Annexure-I. The quantity of onion exported country-wise during the last three years is given in Annexure-II.

Total estimated production of onion in the country during the crop year 2004-05 in Rabi, Kharif and Late Kharif is 59.42 lakh Metric Tones which is 4% more than the production in the previous year. The Kharif production however, has been less by 6.8% in the country as compared to previous year although the area under kharif is more by 3.9% than the previous year. This was due to erratic and excessive rainfall particularly in major onion growing States of Maharashtra and Gujarat, which adversely affected kharif onion significantly in those States. The kharif crop was also delayed in some States because of the erratic rainfall pattern. Arrival of onion in major wholesale markets in the country in September, 2005 was almost the same as in September, 2004 but about 10% less in October, 2005 than in October, 2004. Price hike in the month of September and October, 2005 was about Rs.400 per quintal and Rs. 500 per quintal respectively compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. In view of the spurt in prices, the Government decided to import onion. No import was however, made by the Government as the prices soon stabilized and the market arrivals improved.

Some private traders have imported during September and October, 2005, about 2000 MT fresh onions from Pakistan and Spain. The quantum of onion imported by the private traders and its value during the last two months, country-wise, is given in Annexure-III.

The Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Horticulture Mission under which assistance is being provided for quality seed production, which in turn will boost the production and productivity of onion in the country. The National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation, which is involved in vegetable seed production, has reported a substantial jump of 600 quintals this year in onion seed production as compared to the previous year. For storage of onion, the National Horticulture Board is providing back ended capital investment subsidy @ 25% of the total project cost for installation of onion storage.

Annexure-I

Estimates on Area and Production of Onion During Rabi, Kharif and Late Kharif During 2004-05

A: Area om `000 ha P: Production in `000 MT

State	Rabi	Kharif	Late Kharif	Total
A P A P A P A P				
Andhra Pradesh	19.00	170.00	1.90	16.75 20.90 186.75
Bihar	22.00	235.00	2.25	32.25 24.25 267.25
Gujarat	17.50	365.00	3.25	165.00 22.00 430.00 42.75 960.00
Haryana	7.25	126.00	6.00	135.00 13.25 261.00
Karnataka	31.50	245.00	3.00	14.00 34.50 259.00
Madhya Pradesh	21.00	245.00	5.00	66.00 26.00 311.00
Maharashtra	43.00	850.00	11.48	270.00 25.50 550.00 80.98 1570.00
Orissa	45.00	280.00	0.50	8.00 10.00 200.00 55.50 488.00
Rajasthan	14.00	172.00	13.00	290.00 27.00 326.00
Tamil Nadu	12.00	150.00	7.25	72.50 19.25 222.50
Himachal Pradesh	52.50	550.00	1.25	13.00 53.75 563.00
Others	21.50	200.00	4.00	56.00 6.75 125.00 32.25 381.00
All India	306.25	3588.00	63.78	1049.50 65.25 1305.00 435.28 5942.50

2004-05

Area = 435.28 Thousands Ha Production = 5942.50 Thousands MT

Annexure-II

Destination wise Export of Onion from the country during the Year 2001-02 to 2004-05

Destination	QTY. IN MTs		VALUE IN RS. LAKH			
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Upto 23.11.2005	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
Dubai	81711	6539.55	108039	7540.98	104250	10068.56 100301 7861.64 437867 3940.80
Eahrain	14336	1179.59	21658	1542.52	23133	2511.67 19879 1691.06
Doha/Qatar	1297	100.21	3210	244.51	1722	174.60 7157 637.35
Sharjah	1397	111.44	9099	666.91	13110	1188.63 13483 1035.33
Kuwait	1332	109.07	1450	105.35	3407	408.72 5076 409.56
Abudhabi	8725	706.48	4063	310.18	7408	733.01 8639 650.80
Pakistan	1391	98.72	15583	1003.79	0	0 13829 981.10
Re Union	3151	441.93	5530	623.29	6069	777.39 4887 699.74
Dammam	7236	608.84	15943	1131.96	14592	1510.59 9388 736.85
Singapore	16432	1510.19	20484	1612.20	24106	2252.08 20368 1729.39
Malaysia	83551	7683.6	111402	8239.32	162401	18462.24 134077 13485.91
Maldives	3347	369.30	3901	442.31	16546	1803.72 4625 563.00
Sri Lanka	84236	6781.73	102668	7160.66	147013	13643.62 90372 7219.71
Bangladesh	187104	13571.7	694132	5602.82	270104	24008.54 464538 40208.97
Nepal	1488	99.51	6750	334.73	26882	1985.60 26602 1603.30
Seychelles	645	89.41	688	88.35	375	57.37 965 152.57
Mauritius	7842	927.48	9587	1138.39	11163	1563.42 10820 1435.38
Muscat	182	15.21	1773	131.66	2451	236.80 2179 188.29
Lebiel Ali	0	0	1855	156.70		
Greece	1170	166.26	550	68.21		
Others	1521	196.51	9251	798.77	4759	628.18 1858 234.27
Total	506924	41140.53	545211	38716.70	840661	82171.00 941448 81749.13

Annexure-III

India's import of onion during September and October, 2005 (Provisional)

Item	Country		Quantity		Value (in Rs.)	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
Onion fresh	Pakistan	2055600	21651890			
Onion fresh	Spain	25600	1233637			
Onion dried	Egypt	900	108628			
Onion dried	Germany	1200	284238			
Onion dried	Belgium	12800	438915			

Source : DGCIS.