

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:59

ANSWERED ON:24.07.2006

IMPORT OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

Chandrappan Shri C.K.;Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Gangwar Shri Santosh Kumar;Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan;Reddy Shri Suravaram Sudhakar;Satpathy Shri Tathagata;Suman Shri Ramji Lal

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to allow import of essential commodities and slashed the import duty to control their prices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the countries, quantum and price of such imports alongwith the number of contracts made so far, commodity-wise;
- (c) the losses likely to be incurred by the Government as a result thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has also allowed private companies to make such imports;
- (e) if so, terms and conditions thereof alongwith the incentives being provided to such private importers; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to improve availability of these commodities in the intervening period?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN)

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(d) : Imports of wheat have been allowed freely upto 31.12.06 and import duty has been reduced to 5%. Import duty on white sugar has been reduced to zero upto 30.09.06. As regards pulses, imports have been allowed at zero duty upto 31.3.07.

(e) : Private importers undertake import of commodities as per their commercial judgment.

(f) : Government has, inter-alia, disallowed exports of sugar and pulses upto 31.03.07