

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:4
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2007
IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS
Mondal Shri Abu Ayes

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

- (a) whether the Government has been importing rice and wheat during the last two years;
- (b) if so, the details of imports in each quarter of the said period alongwith details of quality, quantity and the price;
- (c) whether the Government has paid more charges in transporting these cereals vis-À-vis its import price;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and the loss incurred as a result thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has finalised any plan to amend the 'Schedule VI' of the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import in India) Order 2003';
- (f) if so, whether any assessment has been made regarding the effect of the proposed move; and
- (g) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) & (g):A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 4 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 26.02.2007 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) & (b): The Government has not imported rice during the last two years. Wheat has been imported as per details given below. Quarter wise details of imports for wheat are as follows:-

S.No. Period Qty. (in lakh MTs.)

1	April 2005 - March 2006	NIL
2.	April 2006 - June 2006	0.92
3.	July 2006 - September 2006	15.03
4.	October 2006 - December 2006	28.37
5.	January 2007 - February 2007	06.44
	(Up to 19-02-2007)	

Quality specifications for tender 1, tender 2 and tenders 3 to 5 are enclosed as Annexure I, II and III respectively.

The tender wise quantity and weighted average prices are given at Annexure IV

(c)&(d): Ocean freight is included in the weighted average price given in Annexure IV. Cost for internal transportation is borne by the Government which varies from destination to destination.

(e): Government has no plan to amend the Schedule VI of the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 in respect of phytosanitary requirements for import of wheat and rice into the country.

(f)&(g): Do not arise.