

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2307
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007
IMPORT OF PULSES
Pathak Shri Brajesh;Singh Shri Sugrib

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

- (a) whether pulses were imported from Myanmar recently to meet the shortage in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantum, price and subsidy thereon during each of the last three years;
- (c) whether there has been a delay in shipments from Myanmar;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the price of pulses in the country increased due to such delay;
- (f) if so, the details in this regard; and (g) the remedial measures taken by the Government to check the price of pulses in the country?

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) : During the year 2007-08 (Up to 28.11. 07), State agencies (NAFED, PEC Ltd, MMTC and STC) contracted a quantity of 2.46 lakh MTs in the range of US \$ 384 -704.45 for import of pulses from Myanmar.

(b) : The details of pulses imported from Myanmar over the last 3 years are given in table below:

Year	Quantity(Tonnes)	Value (lakhs)
2004-05	479229	67904.26
2005-06	459624	86729.49
2006-07	605794	156561.90

Government decided that NAFED would keep the subsidy element in the import of pulses up to 15% of landed cost during the year 2006-07. During the current year, it has been decided that PSUs & NAFED may be permitted to seek reimbursement of losses on import of pulses not exceeding 15% and benchmarking to the lowest percentage of loss.

(c) : State Agencies like MMTC, STC, PEC and NAFED have not faced any delays in shipments of pulses from Myanmar.

(d) to (f): does not arise.

(g) : Steps taken by the Government.

(i) Customs duty on import of pulses was reduced to zero on June 8, 2006 and the period of validity of import of pulses at zero duty has been extended from 31.3.07 to 1.8.2007 and further to 31.3.09.

(ii) A ban was imposed on export of pulses with effect from June 22, 2006 (except export of kabuli chana w.e.f. 7.3.07). The period of validity of prohibition on exports of pulses which was initially upto 31.3.07 was further extended upto 31.3.2008, vide DGFT Notification dated 9.3.2007.

(iii) As per initiative of Government the State agencies (NAFED, PEC Ltd, MMTC and STC) would target to import 1.5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) of imports of pulses. Out of the total contracts of 12.23 lakh tonnes made by these agencies, 7.21 lakh tonnes have arrived up to 13.11.2007.

(iv) Forward Markets Commission (FMC) has on 23.01.07, directed the three National Exchanges, namely (a) Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd., (b) National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Ltd., (c) National Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd., to delist all contracts of tur and urad and to close out all outstanding positions in all Tur and Urad contracts at the closing price on

23.01.07. FMC has also stated that no further contract shall be launched without its prior approval and permission already granted to launch contracts in Urad and Tur stands withdrawn.

(v) An Expert Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Shri Abhijit Sen , Member, Planning Commission to study impact, if any, of the trading in forward markets on the prices of the commodities.

(vi) Keeping in view the prevailing price situation, the Central Government had issued a Central Order dated 29.08.2006 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to enable the State Governments to invoke Stock Limits in respect of wheat and pulses for a period of 6 months. By virtue of this Order, the State Governments /UT Administrations have been empowered to take effective action to bring out the hoarded stock of these items to ensure their availability to the common people at reasonable prices. Government has, on 1.9.2007, extended the validity of the Central Order by another six months.