

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:608
ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008
IMPORT OF PULSES
Barad Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether import of pulses is being encouraged to increase their availability in the country;
- (b) if so, the quantity and value of pulses imported during the last three years and the current year from various countries including Myanmar, country-wise;
- (c) whether the recent cyclone in Myanmar has adversely affected the country's dependence on pulses from Myanmar;
- (d) if so, the details alongwith the steps taken by the Government to meet the shortfall of pulses in the country;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to provide economic incentives to private sector agencies for import of pulses;
- (f) if so, the details in this regard; and
- g) if not, the reasons for not seeking the co-operation of private sector for increasing the availability of pulses in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

- (a) Yes Sir, the Government has taken a number of measures for augmenting domestic supply. These include permitting imports at zero duty, ban on export of pulses and import of pulses through specific public sector agencies and cooperatives.
- (b) The quantity and value of the pulses imported during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 country- wise is annexed.
- (c)&(d): The available figures of import of pulses from Myanmar do not indicate that cyclone in Myanmar has significantly affected our imports from Myanmar.
- (e) to (g): The import of pulses is under OGL and pulses can be imported by anyone including private sector. Free importability is continuing since more than 10 years. To encourage private traders to import pulses, the import duty has been reduced to nil upto 31st March 2009.