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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1969
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2010
AVAILABILITY OF EDIBLE OIL
Singh Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad

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

(a) whether the Government has assessed the availability and demand of edible oil in the country;

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to import edible oil;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken for proper and safe storage of edible oil?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The net availability of edible oil from all domestic sources, during the current year 2009-2010 (November to October) has been assessed as 82.81 lakh tonnes and demand/consumption during the same period has been assessed as 181 lakh tonnes. The gap between production and supply of edible oil is met through imports. Import of edible oil estimated during 2009-10 is 98.00 lakh tonnes.

(c) & (d): The import of edible oils (except coconut oil) is allowed under Open General Licence (OGL). At present, the Government does not propose to import edible oil on its own account. However, in order to provide relief to consumers from rising prices, the Central Government launched a Scheme for Distribution of subsidised imported edible oils through States/UTs during 2008-09 under which the designated PSUs, viz., PEC, STC, MMTC and NAFED imported edible oils and handed over to States/UTs for distribution among ration card holders at the rate of 1 kg. per ration card per month. Till January 2009, the Central Government gave a subsidy of Rs.15 per kg. Thereafter, the subsidy was increased to Rs.25 per kg. till March, 2009.

At present, the Scheme is extended upto 31st October, 2010.

(e): Public Sector Units hire storage facilities for meeting their requirement.