

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3042

ANSWERED ON:16.03.2010

AVAILABILITY OF PULSES

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

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding the demand and availability of pulses in the country during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to import pulses to meet the shortage in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantum, price and the countries from where it is proposed to be imported alongwith the arrangements made for its safe storage and distribution;
- (e) whether a large quantity of imported pulses were held up at ports and could not be distributed; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the corrective steps taken in this regard?

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 (PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): The details of the demand and availability of pulses during the last three years and current year are given in Annexure - I. The gap between the domestic demand and production of pulses were met to a large extent by imports.

(c) & (d): The import of pulses is largely done by the private importers. However, four agencies viz. NAFED, MMTC, PEC and STC are authorized by the Government to import pulses under Government subsidy scheme since June 2006.

As per data provided by Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), during April 2009-October 2009, 1.77 million tonnes of pulses valued at Rs. 4517 Crore were imported. The countries from which pulses are imported are Myanmar, Tanzania, Malawi, Australia, Canada, USA, France, Mozambique, etc.

The details on arrangements for storage etc made by private importers are not available. The 4 agencies make arrangements for safe storage of imported pulses in the Port warehouses, Central Ware house Corporations/ State Ware house Corporations. The distribution/disposals of imported pulses are as per their internal sale procedure: to the state governments for sale under PDS, open market sale through the tenders and sale through spot exchanges.

(e): No, Madam. NAFED reported that in July 2009, a quantity of 5976 MTs of Imported Yellow Peas was held at Koikata Port due to delay in clearance from Health Authorities. However, this was soon cleared and disposed as per the prescribed sale procedure of NAFED.

PEC, STC and MMTC reported that no stocks of imported pulses got wasted during the last two years.

(f): Does not arise.