

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:900
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009
PULSES FOR PDS
Ramasubbu Shri S.

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

- (a) the total production and import of pulses in the country during the current year;
- (b) whether nearly four lakh tones of pulses meant for public distribution system were left rotting at ports and warehouses which have contributed to their shortage and soaring prices;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the amount of losses incurred by the PSUs as a result thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such wastage of essential commodities and to ensure adequate availability of food items to common man at affordable prices 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 (PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

- (a) As per the data provided by DGCIS, during April 2009-October 2009, 1.596 million tonnes of pulses valued at Rs. 4133 Crore was imported. During 2008-09, the total pulse production is estimated at 14.66 Million tonnes and as per the First advance estimate released by Ministry of Agriculture as on 3.11.2009, kharif pulses production is estimated at 4.42 million tonnes in 2009-10.
- (b) No, Madam. The 4 PSUs such as NAFED, PEC, STC and MMTC have imported and supplied 97019 tonnes of pulses to the State Governments under PDS.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) Government of India has taken steps to discourage storage of these commodities in the Port area and early transport outside.