

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6326

ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010

AVAILABILITY OF PULSES

Bais Shri Ramesh;Joshi Dr. Murli Manohar;Laguri Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh;Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao;Patil Shri Sanjay Dina ;Rama Devi Smt. ;Ramkishun Shri ;Rana (Raju Rana) Shri Rajendrasinh Ghanshyamsinh;Roy Shri Arjun;Singh Shri Bhola

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

- (a) the availability, demand and import of pulses during each of the last three months;
- (b) whether pulses are being sold at an inflated price in the market despite good production and adequate stocks;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the quantum of pulses sold in the open market;
- (d) whether the farmers are not getting the market price for their produce;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (f) the remedial measures taken by the Government to reduce imports and ensure availability of pulses at affordable price 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): Data estimates are available on annual basis. As per the second advance estimates of Ministry of Agriculture during 2009-10 the total production of pulses is estimated at 14.74 million tonnes . As per the DGCI&S during 2009-10 the imports were 3.20 million tonnes (upto February 2010 provisional). The demand for pulses is projected at 18.29 million tonnes as per the estimates of the Working Group of Planning Commission for the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(b): No Madam, prices of pulses are rising on account of the shortfall in the domestic availability of pulses as compared to the demand.

(c): In view of the (b) above, does not arise.

(d): There are no such reports. However, there exists some gap between market price and what farmers get as there is a large supply chain with a number of intermediaries operating in the supply chain of agricultural produce. In the process of marketing of agricultural produce, multiple handling in the supply chain, lack of proper marketing infrastructure, storage etc. lead to high carry costs, repeated margin and wastages. These add up to the marketing costs and gap between farmers price and the consumers price.

(e): In order to facilitate better price realization by the farmers and better quality produce at reasonable rates to consumers, the Government has taken a number of reform initiatives in agriculture sector. One of them was to formulate a Model State Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, which was circulated to States during 2003 with the request to amend their APMC Act to provide for alternate marketing channel like direct marketing, contract farming, setting up of markets in private and cooperative sectors etc. Three Central Sector Schemes viz. Development / Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization, Rural Godown Scheme and Marketing Research and Information Network (AGMARKNET) are also in position for the benefit of farmers.

(f): Government has taken initiatives to improve production and productivity in pulses and reduce the reliance on imports, such as, Strengthening NFSM Pulses by Merger of ISOPOM for pulses with NFSM with allocation of about Rs 1000 crores in next two years, Accelerated pulses production program (A3P) and Integrated development of 60,000 pulses and oilseeds villages in rainfed areas with an outlay of Rs 300 crores under RKVY. However, in the short term, domestic production of pulses being lower than the demand, there is no alternative but to import pulses to bridge the demand-supply gap.