

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1549
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2010
IMPORT OF WHEAT
Singh Shri Rakesh

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

- (a) the details of wheat imported into the country during the current year;
- (b) whether the quality of imported wheat is comparatively better and cheaper than the domestic wheat;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is contemplating to stop the import of wheat; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): Government has not imported any wheat from April 2008 onward for Central Pool. As informed by Director General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Kolkata, imports of wheat into the country on private account during the current year (April to June, 2010) have been as under:-

Name of port Qty. (in tons)

Madras 973

Tuticorin 26,625

New Mangalore Sea 997

Cochin Sea 14,617

Nava Sheva Sea 2,962

Total 46,174

(b)&(c): Information on quality standards of privately imported wheat is not maintained by Government. However, field units of Plant Protection and Quarantine as well as Food Safety and Standards Authority of India at ports of entry regulate the quality of imported wheat consignments. They allow import of only those consignments which conform to provisions under Plant Quarantine Orders, 2003 and Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. While price of imported wheat at the entry ports ranged between Rs.12, 818.78 per ton to Rs.13, 874.61 per ton, the wholesale prices of domestic wheat as on 30.06.2010 at Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram and Mumbai were Rs.20, 000, Rs.19, 900 and Rs.14, 000 per ton respectively.

(d) & (e): The Government is not importing wheat on Government account for Central Pool. At present there is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to stop the import of wheat on private account.