

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1082  
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2011  
IMPORT OF PULSES  
Kanubhai Patel Jayshreeben

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

- (a) whether despite bumper harvest during the current year the Government agencies are planning to import pulses putting an additional financial burden of Rs. 400 crores on the exchequer;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the time period for which the said import is likely to continue?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): The production of pulses during the current year 2011-12 as per the 2nd Advance Estimates released by Ministry of Agriculture is estimated to be 16.51 million tonnes. The Working Group of Xth Five Year Plan of the Planning Commission estimated that the demand for pulses during 2011-12 is 19.91 million tonnes in the country. There is a gap of about 3.40 million tonnes of pulses which have to be met by imports from different countries depending upon their availability and price.

The additional financial burden on the exchequer due to import of pulses by the Government agencies would depend upon the quantity of pulses actually imported by the designated agencies.

(c): Given that the supply demand mismatch with regard to pulses is likely to exist in the near future, Government has permitted imports of pulses at zero duty up to 31.3.2012 to increase domestic availability and stabilize the prices of pulses.