

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1908  
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2011  
IMPORT OF PALM OIL  
Dhanaplan Shri K. P.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to import palm oil during the ensuing year; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): There is wide gap between demand and supply of edible oils in the country. In order to bridge the gap, import of edible oils is facilitated through liberal import duty structure. At present the import duty applicable to crude and refined edible oils is zero percent and 7.5% respectively. In addition, Government has been implementing since 2008-09, a Scheme for distribution of subsidized imported edible oils. Under this, refined palmolein and soyabean oil imported by Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) are delivered to States/Union Territories for distribution to ration card holders. Government provides a subsidy of Rs.15/- per kg. on these edible oils distributed under the Scheme. Extension of the Scheme beyond 31.3.2011 is presently under consideration.