

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:342
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2009
INCREASE IN IMPORT OF EDIBLE OIL
Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

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

- (a) whether the import of edible oil has been rising during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor, edible oil-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to create a reserve stock of imported edible oil to meet any emergency as well as take measures to increase the indigenous production of oilseeds; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a),(b),(c) &(d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.342 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 28.07.2009 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a)&(b): Yes, Madam. The details of import of edible oil during the last three years and the current year are as follows:

(Qty. in lakh tons)	
Year (April - March)	Import of edible oil
2005-06	42.88
2006-07	42.69
2007-08	49.03
2008-09 (upto February, 2009)	62.03

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Kolkotta.

A statement showing oil-wise details of import of edible oil during the last three years and the current year is annexed. Import of edible oil is allowed under Open General Licence (OGL) except coconut oil. Since the domestic production of edible oil is insufficient to meet the domestic demand, edible oil is imported on commercial consideration by private operators.

(c)&(d): There is no proposal under consideration to create a reserve stock of imported edible oil. The Government has taken various steps to increase the indigenous production of edible oils in the country which includes:-

(i) A centrally sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) is being implemented in 14 major oilseeds growing States for increasing production. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, gypsum/ pyrite/lime/dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, training, publicity etc. to encourage farmers to grow these crops.

(ii) Enhanced incentives to farmers through fixation of higher Minimum Support Price of major oilseeds.

(iii) Research for development of higher yielding improved varieties and production and protection technologies in oilseeds.