

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:92
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012
IMPORT OF EDIBLE OILS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether there exists a gap between the demand and supply of edible oils in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the production, demand and import of edible oils in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to import edible oils during the ensuing year to meet the domestic demand and keep the prices under control; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken or plan chalked out by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(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. 92 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 20.03.2012 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a)and(b): Yes, Madam. There is gap between demand and supply of edible oils in the country. Though the production of oilseeds has increased in the recent years, the gap between demand and supply from domestic sources has not been bridged. This is because demand for edible oils has also increased due to increase in population and purchasing power of the people. About half of the demand of edible oils is met through imports. The details of production of oilseeds, net availability from all domestic sources, import of edible oils and total availability of edible oils in the country during the last three years and current year are as under:

[In Lakh Tons]

Year (November- October)	Production of Oilseeds (Primary edible Source) from all domestic sources	Net availability of edible oils	Imports of edible oils	Total Availability of edible oils
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2008-2009	277.19	84.65	81.83	166.39
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2009-2010	248.82	79.46	88.23	167.69
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2010-2011	324.79	76.27	83.71	181.53
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2011-2012 (Provisional) Jan, '12)	305.29	73.16 (Nov. '11- Jan, '12)	21.30	-
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Source :
Ministry of Agriculture
Directorate of Vanaspati, Vegetable Oils and Fats
Solvent Extractors' Association of India, Mumbai

(c)and(d): The import of edible oils is under Open General Licence (OGL) except coconut oil. There is also a Scheme for Distribution of Subsidized Edible Oils through States/UTs within approved quantity of 10 lakh tons of edible oils from October 2011 to September

2012. Central Public Sector Undertakings import edible oils for this purpose on behalf of State Governments. In order to meet the requirement of edible oils in the country and to keep the prices under control, Government has taken the following steps:

(i) Import duties on crude and refined edible oils have been reduced to nil and 7.5% respectively.

(ii) Export of edible oils has been banned except coconut oil, edible oils from minor forest produce and branded oils in small consumer packs within a quantitative limit.

(iii) State Governments have been authorized to impose stock limits on edible oils and oilseeds.

(iv) In order to provide relief to consumers from rising prices and to augment availability of edible oils, since 2008, Government has introduced a "scheme for distribution of subsidized imported edible oils through States/Union Territories" for distribution to ration card holders with a central subsidy of Rs. 15/- per kg. The scheme has been extended upto September, 2012. The scheme is expected to moderate the prices of edible oils in the domestic market.