

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:340

ANSWERED ON:07.07.2009

IMPORT OF PULSES

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

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

(a) whether pulses are being imported into the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the sale of Khesari pulse is still banned;

(d) if so, whether the reports regarding sale of Khesari pulse, polished with chemicals and poisonous substances in the open market have been received by the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and remedial steps taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam, Government has permitted import of pulses at zero duty.As per DGCIS data (provisional), about 2.95 million tonnes of pulses were imported during 2007-08, as compared to 2.49 million tonnes during the previous year. During the current year (April-February) 2.14 million tonnes of pulses have been imported.

Table:1 Imports of pulses (2005-06 to 2008-09) (in lakh tonnes)

Year	Imports of pulses
2005-06	18.70
2006-07	24.91
2007-08	29.52
2008-09 (Apr-February)	21.42

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI & S)

(c): The sale of Khesari pulses has been prohibited under rule 44A in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules,1955.An extract of the relevant rule is reproduced below;-

`Rule 44-A:- Sale of Khesari gram prohibited:- No person in any State shall, with effect from such date as the State Government concerned may by notification in the Official Gazette specify in this behalf, sell or offer or expose for sale, or have in his possession for the purpose of sale, under any description or for use as an ingredient in the preparation of any article of food intended for sale Khesari gram and its mixture.`

(d): There is no such report received by the Government.

(e): Does not arise.