

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6293
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2012
IMPORT OF QUALITY SEEDS
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the country is in a position of carrying out export of foodgrains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the current status of foodgrains in the country;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to import quality seeds from foreign countries recently; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Export of wheat and non-basmati rice banned since 09.02.2007 and 01.04.2008 respectively has been allowed with effect from 09.09.2011 under Open General License (OGL) by private parties out of privately held stocks in view of production, procurement and availability of sufficient stocks of wheat and non-basmati rice in Central Pool as well as in the country. Government has been monitoring the status of export of non-basmati rice and wheat from time to time and approving continuation of unrestricted export of these commodities under OGL.

(c) & (d): Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) has no proposal to import the quality seeds from the foreign countries. However, the import of seeds/planting materials is governed under EXIM Policy of the Ministry of Commerce and new Policy on Seed Development, 1988. The proposals for import of seeds under New Policy on Seed Development, 1988 are considered on case to case basis by EXIM Committee of DAC.