

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7552

ANSWERED ON:22.05.2012

IMPORT OF EDIBLE OIL

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

- (a) whether edible oil is being imported into the country from abroad;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the value of edible oil imported during each of the last three years;
- (d) whether the said import is having an adverse effect on edible oil producers and the farmers;
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (f) the corrective/reformative steps taken in this regard by the Government?

**Answer**

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

(a) and (b): Yes, Madam. There is gap between demand and supply of edible oils in the country and about half of the demand is met through imports. Though production of oilseeds has increased in recent years, the gap between demand and supply from domestic sources has not been bridged because of increase in demand and consumption due to increase in population and purchasing power of people.

(c): The value of edible oils imported during the last three years is listed below:

Year Value in rupees crores  
(Nov.-October)

2008-09 27034.81

2009-10 34676.99

2010-11 46059.30

(d), (e) and (f): No Madam, there is no such report about adverse impact of imports of edible oils rather imports have increased availability of edible oils in the country and has helped the edible oil refining industry as well as the consumers. In order to further augment the availability of edible oils, since 2008 Government has implemented a scheme for distribution of subsidized imported edible oils through States/UTs to ration card holders. The scheme was extended from time to time and for further period for import of 10 lakh tons of edible oils from October, 2011 to September, 2012.