

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5175
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2012
CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION OF PULSES
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

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

- (a) whether a report by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) has indicated a consistently increasing gap between the consumption and production of pulses in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is taking any steps to fill the gap;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a): The Pulses Production Report 2008 of ASSOCHAM has mentioned that there has been declining per capita availability and consumption of pulses because of its stagnant production. Pulse production has increased in the last two years with production at 14.66 million tonnes in 2009-10 and 18.24 million tonnes in 2010-11.

(b)& (c): Government has taken several fiscal and administrative measures for enhancing availability of pulses which include inter-alia the following:

1. Government has been actively promoting the production of pulses through various crop development schemes such as National Food Security Mission on Pulses, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil palm & Maize (ISOPOM), Macro-Management of Agriculture (MMA), and Integrated Development of 60,000 Pulses villages in Rainfed areas under RKVY in major pulses growing States in the country.
2. Customs duty on import of pulses has been reduced to zero w.e.f. June 8, 2006;
3. Export of pulses has been banned since June 27, 2006, except the export of kabuli chana, and 10,000 tonnes of organic pulses and lentils;
4. Stock limit on pulses have been imposed since August 29, 2006;
5. Futures trade in urad and tur have been banned since January 23, 2007;
6. A subsidy scheme for imported pulses was operationalized during December, 2006 to March, 2011 whereby 5 designated public sector agencies undertook import of pulses and supplied it in the domestic market for which the Government reimbursed losses upto 15% of the landed cost;
7. Another subsidy scheme for pulses has been operationalized since November, 2008 for supply of imported pulses to the State Government/UTs with a subsidy of Rs.10/- per kg for distribution under the PDS @ 1kg per family per month.

(d) : Does not arise.