

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:703

ANSWERED ON:27.11.2012

IMPORT OF PULSES AND EDIBLE OIL

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

- (a) whether the prices and imports of pulses and edible oil have increased during the recent years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the production, demand, stock, import and domestic prices of the said products during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the countries from where these were imported along with domestic agencies involved in such imports;
- (d) the steps taken to improve domestic availability, curb imports and check prices;
- (e) whether the Government has assessed the likely impact of rising prices of these products in international markets on its prices in the domestic market; and
- (f) if so, the details and the outcome thereof and the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The prices of some of the pulses and edible oils have generally increased during the recent years. The import of pulses and edible oils increased during 2011-12. The details of production and import of pulses and edible oils are given at Annexure-I, and the details of their month end retail prices as observed in 4 metros viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai are given at Annexure-II. The data on stocks of pulses and edible oils are not maintained centrally. There are no formal estimates of demand pertaining to these items. However, the demand estimates based on projections made for the XI Five Year Plan by the Planning Commission for pulses and oil seeds are given in Annexure-III.

(c): In the case of pulses, major imports were made from countries such as: Australia, Canada, China, Malawi, Myanmar, USA, Ukraine. Regarding edible oils, major imports were made from countries such as: Argentina, Brazil, Indonesia, Malaysia, Ukraine, USA. A good portion of the imports was made by private operators.

(d): The steps taken to improve domestic availability, curb imports and check prices are given at Annexure-IV.

(e) & (f): Rising international prices affect domestic prices since a considerable part of the demand for pulses and edible oils are met through imports. However, no such formal assessment has been done.