

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:277

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2009

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS

Patil Shri A.T. Nana;Shanavas Shri M. I.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to import foodgrains including pulses, rice, gram and sugar during the current year to improve availability and check prices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the production, stock and import of the said commodities during each of the last three years and the current year alongwith the names of the countries from where it was imported;
- (c) the price of the said imports alongwith the agencies involved therein; and
- (d) the concessions including duty cuts provided/proposed to be provided to the importing agencies?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c) & (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.277 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 08.12.2009 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a): No decision has been taken by Government to import wheat, rice sugar and pulses on Government account in the current year. However, import duty on these commodities have been reduced to nil to facilitate imports and to increase availability.

(b)&(c): The production, stock and import of wheat, Rice, Sugar and pulses on Government account during the last three years and the current year and countries of import and price are as under :-

Wheat:- (Quantity in lac tons)
Year Production Stocks with FCI Imports on
(April-March) Date Quantity Government Account

2006-07	758.1	1.7.2006	82.07	53.79
2007-08	785.7	1.7.2007	129.2	8.44
2008-09	805.8#	1.7.2008	249.12	Nil
2009-10\$	1.7.2009	329.22	Nil	

#Fourth Advance Estimate

\$ No estimate available

During 2006-07 wheat was imported from Russia, Australia, Canada, Hungary, France, Ukraine, Argentina, Czech Republic & Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria. During 2007-08, wheat was imported from Russia, Argentina, Canada, Brazil and Australia.

During 2006-07 wheat was imported at the weighted average price of US \$ 205.34 per ton (Approx). The agency involved in import of wheat was State Trading Corporation. During 2007-08 wheat was imported at the weighted average price of US \$ 366.83 per ton (Approx).

The agencies involved in the import of wheat were STC, MMTC & PEC Ltd.

Rice:- (in lac tons)

Year Production Stocks with FCI Imports on
(Oct.-Sept.) Date Quantity Government Account

2006-07	933.50	1.4.2006	136.75	Nil
2007-08	966.90	1.4.2007	131.72	Nil
2008-09	991.50#	1.4.2008	138.35	Nil
2009-10	694.50\$	1.4.2009	216.04	Nil

Fourth Advance Estimates

\$1st Advance Estimates for Kharif Season.

Sugar:-

The production and stock of sugar for the month of October during last three years and the current year is given as under:

(in lac tons)

S.No. Sugar Year Production Stock with Sugar Mills
(October-September)

1.	2006-07	282.00	110.00	
2.	2007-08	263.00		105.00
3.	2008-09	146.80	24.70	
4.	2009-10	1.85	(Upto Oct., 09)	N.A.

There has been no import of sugar on Government account.

Pulses:-:

(In lac tons)

S.No. Year Production

1.	2006-07	142.0
2.	2007-08	147.6
3.	2008-09#	146.6
4.	2009-10\$	44.2

#Fourth Advance Estimate

\$Estimate for kharif

The Government does not maintain stocks of pulses. There has been no import of pulses on Government account.

d): The current import duty structure of wheat, rice, pulses and sugar is as under:

S.No.	Commodity	Custom duty
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1	Wheat	Nil
2	Meslin	Nil
3	Rice (semi or wholly milled)	Nil
4	Rice (in husk or husked)	80%
5	Pulses (including grams)	Nil
6	Sugar	Nil