

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:411

ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013

IMPORT OF PULSES AND EDIBLE OILS

Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram;Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

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

(a) whether the persistent gap between the demand and supply of pulses and edible oils has led to rising prices and continued dependence on imports;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the production, demand, import and price of the said commodities during the last one year along with the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the domestic availability and keep prices under control;

(c) whether the Government proposes to supply these items at subsidised rates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the quantum of subsidy proposed to be provided to the States for the purpose?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The gap between the demand and supply of pulses and edible oils is one of the reasons for rise in prices of pulses and edible oils. As, part of the indigenous demand for pulses and edible oils are met through imports, domestic prices invariably get impacted by changes in international prices. The details of production, demand and import of pulses and edible oils during the last one year are given at Annexure-I. The details of retail prices of pulses and edible oils as observed in 4 metros, viz., Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai during the last one year are given at Annexure-II. Government has taken various steps to improve domestic availability of pulses and edible oils and keep prices under control which are given at Annexure-III.

(c) & (d): In respect of pulses, a scheme for distribution of subsidized imported pulses under Public Distribution System to Below Poverty Line (BPL) Card Holders is presently in operation. The quantum of pulses imported would be as per the estimates of BPL cardholders in the States/UTs as estimated by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India. The subsidy would be @ Rs.20/-per kg. of the pulses imported. The distribution of pulses to the BPL cardholders would be through the Public Distribution System @ 1 kg. per card per month. The task of importing pulses, including where necessary through Central Public Sector Undertakings, would be undertaken by the states and the role of the Central Government restricted to providing the agreed amount of subsidy for the specific quantity of pulses imported. A scheme for distribution of subsidized imported edible oils through States/UTs with a central subsidy of Rs. 15/- per kg. has been implemented by the Government since 2008 for distribution through PDS. The operation of the scheme has been extended upto 30.09.2013. The quantum of subsidy is Rs. 15/- per kg. given on the quantity of edible oils distributed by States as per their demand.