

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:917
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2013
IMPORT OF REFINED EDIBLE OIL
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether refined edible oil is being imported in larger quantity in comparison to crude palm oil;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the total quantity of crude and refined edible oil imported during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether domestic refining companies are suffering heavy losses owing to the increasing import of refined edible oil and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to increase the import duty on refined edible oil and introduce other measures to support the domestic refining industry; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) No, Madam. The quantity of imported refined edible oil is not more than the imported crude palm oil. The quantity of imported Refined Bleached and Deodorized (RBD) Palmolein has increased in 2012-13 due to the inverted duty structure on crude and refined oils by the major exporting countries and the reduction in import duty difference between crude and refined oils from 7.5% to 5% in January, 2013. The quantity of imported RBD Palmolein and imported Crude Palm Oil (CPO) during the last three years and in the current Edible Oil Year (November - October) is as follows:

(Qty in lakh ton)

Edible Oil Year	Refined Edible Oil	Crude palm oil
2010-11	10.82	53.74
2011-12	15.77	59.94
2012-13	22.23	58.89
2013-14	-	-

Source: Solvent Extractors` Association of India

The current edible oil year has commenced from 1st November, 2013 and the import data is not yet available.

(c) Although there is an increase in import of refined edible oil in 2012-13, the import of crude palm oil, more or less, remains same as compared to last year.

(d) & (e) A proposal for restructuring of import duty on edible oils which includes change in import duty structure on refined edible oils and crude oils, is currently under consideration of the Government.