

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2820

ANSWERED ON:13.03.2015

EXPORT AND IMPORT OF ARECANUT

Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar;Mullappally Shri Ramachandran

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum and value of arecanut exported and imported during each of the last three years and the current year, country-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has taken note of problems faced by arecanut growers in view of fall in its price;
- (c) if so, the facts thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has received any representation to enhance import duty and fix Minimum Import price of arecanut;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (f) the other safeguard measures taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to check/restrict import of arecanut and address the grievances of arecanut growers to ensure adequate price of their produce?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) : Quantum and value of arecanut exported and imported during each of the last three years and the current year, country – wise is at Annexure-I & II respectively.

(b) & (c): The monthly average price of arecanut recorded in Kozhikode and Sagar Markets is at Annexure-III. The mean average price has generally shown an upward trend.

(d) & (e): Representations have been received for increasing the minimum import price and restrict/prohibit/impose duty on the import of arecanut from South East Asian Countries in view of alleged illegal import of inferior quality areca nuts through neighboring Countries, causing fall in domestic prices.

The issue of increase in the minimum import price of arecanut has been examined in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation. Taking into consideration the production figures and the import, domestic prices of the item in the country and considering that the quantity of arecanut import is small as compared to domestic production, no justification has been found for increasing the present Minimum Import Price (MIP) of arecanut (Rs.110/- per kg) .

(f) To check/restrict import of arecanut and address the grievances of arecanut growers, the Government, besides fixing the minimum import price of arecanut at Rs.110/- per kg, has laid down that imports of arecanut would be permitted as an input under advance authorisation, only when it is by an actual user or by anybody (including the actual user), if it is specifically mentioned in the standard input output norms. Further, while the present import duty of arecanut on MFN basis is 100%, Central Board of Excise & Customs also imposes a tariff value on the import of arecanut. In addition, Department of Revenue have been requested to increase vigil and monitoring of imports of arecanut to ensure compliance with Rules of Origin.