

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:776

ANSWERED ON:24.07.2015

Import of Pulses and Onion

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

- a) whether the Government proposes to import pulses and onion into the country;
- b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of the countries from which these are likely to be imported;
- c) the quantum of such imports and expenditure likely to be incurred thereon along with the agencies authorised to undertake such import; and
- d) the extent to which such imports help/likely to help in controlling/reducing prices of these commodities in the country?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) The import and export of agricultural products depends on various factors including availability of surplus over and above the requirement of buffer stock including strategic reserve, concerns of food security, diplomatic/humanitarian considerations, international demand and supply situation, quality standards in the importing/exporting countries, varieties traded and price competitiveness, need to balance between remunerative prices to the growers and availability of agricultural products to common man at affordable prices. The Government takes into account the above factors before deciding on import or export of agricultural commodities. The Government has decided to import 5000 MT of pulses (Tur) through Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC). MMTC has floated global tender enquiry in this regard for Tur of Malawi and Myanmar origin. Another tender for import of 5000 MT of pulses (Urad) has also been floated by MMTC. Regarding import of onion, NAFED has been asked to float global enquiry for import of 10,000 MT onions by the Ministry of Agriculture.

(c) & (d) The exact quantum and likely expenditure that will be incurred in import of pulses and onion cannot be assessed at this initial stages. Such imports by the Government of India would help in sending a signal to the market that Government is willing to intervene in order to bring stability to prices.
