

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:823

ANSWERED ON:24.07.2015

Import of Wheat

Kamal Nath Shri ;Mahendran Shri C.

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

- a) whether the Indian flour millers and the local units of global trading giants have reportedly sewn up deals to import wheat on lower global price from foreign countries including Australia despite surplus stocks at home with FCI and without assessing the actual availability of wheat at home;
- b) if so, the reasons and justification of importing wheat;
- c) whether the Government proposes to reassess the situation and cancel such deals to import wheat;
- d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- e) whether the Government proposes to impose import duty on wheat to curb shipments and liquidate poor quality of grain lying in FCI godowns and if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) : Vide Notification No.35 dated 8th October, 2007, it was decided that import of Durum Wheat (ITC(HS) Code 1001 19 00) and other wheat ITC (HS) Code 1001 99 10) will be allowed freely. Therefore, private parties are free to take decisions based upon their individual decision making parameters.

(c & d) 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.

(e) As on date, there is no such Government decision to impose import duty on wheat.
