

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2890

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2016

Import of Pulses

Dev Km. Sushmita;Gaikwad Prof. Ravindra Vishwanath;Jaiswal Dr. Sanjay;Nimmala Shri Kristappa;Patil Shri Chandrakant Raghunath;Ram Shri Vishnu Dayal;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao;Selvam Shri V. Panneer;Shekhawat Shri Gajendra Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to import pulses to meet the increasing demand and check prices, if so, the details thereof indicating the production, demand and import during the last three years and the estimates for the ensuing year;
- (b) whether the Government maintains any buffer stock of pulses to hedge against any unprecedented decline in production, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether most of the States have not lifted imported pulses offered by the Government at subsidised prices which are still lying in the central pool, if so, the details thereof indicating the quantum imported, offered and lifted by the States, State-wise;
- (d) whether some traders have reportedly formed cartels purchasing and hoarding pulses abroad thereby jacking up the prices, if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps, including action against such importers/hoarders, being taken in this regard; and
- (e) the other steps being taken to improve production and availability of pulses?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

- (a) & (b) : Yes, Madam. The Government has taken a decision to create a buffer stock of 1.5 lakh tonnes of pulses through both domestic procurement and imports to improve domestic availability and stabilise prices. The requisite details are at Annexure-I.
- (c) : No, Madam. The imported Tur has been allocated after mutual consultation and also based on specific requirement of the States. The details are given at Annexure-II.
- (d) : There have been reports that some private importers did attempt forming cartels and cornering stocks of certain pulses in producer countries with an objective of delaying their arrival in India, thereby increasing its prices. Domestic searches and surveys have been conducted on a number of importers, traders and financiers engaged in pulses trade. A Group of Officers has been set up for regular monitoring and exchange of information on hoarding, cartelization etc. to facilitate coordinated action.
- (e) : The requisite details are at Annexure-III.
