

Title: Request to make a statement regarding the import of pearls from Australia.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK): Sir, I want to raise an important issue. ... (Interruptions) In this year STC imported pulse from Myanmar at the rate of 450 dollars per tonne.

Again this year the STC has imported 67,000 tonnes of pulses from Australia at the rate of 467 dollars per tonne. Because of this, the Government Exchequer has incurred a loss at the rate of Rs.15 to Rs.25 per tonne. Not only that but this import has been operated through a Singapore based private agency. But the import from Myanmar was done through Government to Government. It is not understandable why the Government of India started importing pulses from Australia at a higher cost than that of imported from Myanmar.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the Singapore based private agency was given the tender for importing these pulses from Australia whereas the import of pulses was done from Myanmar through Government to Government. I would request the concerned Minister to make a statement in this House regarding the import of pulses from Australia. Sir, this is a scam like the wheat scam.