

[English]

Import of Wheat

1494. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Australia says sold 'some' wheat to India" appearing in the Times of India dated March 20, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts of the matters reported therein; and

(c) the quantity of wheat proposed to be imported this year, country-wise, alongwith the reasons for such import?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAM-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government constantly review the stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool vis-a-vis the prescribed minimum buffer norms, production of foodgrains in the country, trend of procurement, requirement for the Public Distribution System/other welfare schemes, open market prices etc. and decision to import foodgrains is taken depending on the overall situation. Due to untimely rains during the

sowing season the Ministry of Agriculture had initially estimated that the production of wheat during the current Rabi season was likely to be 64.51 million tonnes as against the production of 69.27 million tonnes last year. Government has therefor, decided to import upto 2.0 million tonnes of wheat during 1998-99 to build up adequate reserves for keeping the prices under control. Against this authorisation, STC has contracted for import of 1.5 million tonnes MT +/- 5% wheat from Australia.

Export of Tobacco

1495. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of tobacco and tobacco products exported during each of the last three years;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(c) the estimated foreign exchange likely to be earned by exporting these products the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAM-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The quantum of tobacco and tobacco products exported during the last three years and the value thereof are as follows:-

(Qty. in tonnes; Value in Rs. Crores)

Year	Unmanufactured Tobacco		Manufactured Tobacco		Total	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1995-96	77,665	378.69	9,429	68.13	87,094	446.82
1996-97	77,093	445.98	9,850	91.83	86,943	537.81
1997-98 (Apr.-Mar.)	1,32,533	910.49	10,363	148.01	1,142,896	1058.50

Source : DGCI & S

(c) The estimated exports for 1998-99 are as follows :-

	Unmanufactured Tobacco	Manufactured Tobacco	Total
Quantity (Tons)	1,00,000	9,900	1,09,900
Value (Rs. crores)	600.00	125.00	725.00

Export of Basmati Rice

1496. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice exported and the rates thereof during each of the last two years, both basmati and non-basmati, separately;

(b) the quantity of rice and wheat imported, giving details of quantity, the source of import and the expenditure incurred thereon, separately, during the above period;

(c) the actual inflow of foreign exchange as a result of export of rice and the outgo for import of wheat; and

(d) the cost per tonne in terms of CIF and FOB for these two way deals in respect of both rice and wheat?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAM-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The total quantity, value and

rates thereof of Basmati and Non-basmati rice exported during the last three years are as follows :-

Year	Quantity : Lakh Mts. Value : in Rs. Lakhs Rate : Rs./Tonne					
	Basmati			Non-basmati		
	Quantity	Value	Rate	Quantity	Value	Rate
1995-96	3.73	85067	22806	45.41	371741	8186
1996-97	5.23	124764	23850	19.89	192472	9680
1997-98	5.82	167435	28780	17.22	160038	9294

(Source DGCI & S Calcutta)

(b) The total quantity and value of rice and wheat imported during the last three years is as follows:-

Year	Quantity : in Mts. Value : in Rs. Lakhs			
	Rice		Wheat	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1995-96	80	4.69	8240	1039.19
1996-97	2	1.87	612676	40375.93
1997-98	77	7.28	1344546	97096.26

(Source DGCI & S Calcutta)

Country-wise details of imports are given in the monthly bulletin/annual numbers of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI & S), Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library. The import of wheat has been mainly of "Australian Standard white" from Australia, "Canadian Western Red Spring (Grade I & II)" from Canada and "Hard Red Wheat" from Argentina. The data on quality of rice imported is not maintained.

(c) The actual inflow of foreign exchange as a result of export of rice and the outgo for import of wheat is as follows:-

Year	Value : in Rs. Lakhs	
	Exports of Rice	Imports of Wheat
1995-96	456808	1039.19
1996-97	317236	40375.93
1997-98	327473	97096.26

(d) Exports of rice and imports of wheat have been undertaken independently by separate set of importers/exporters.

Development of Naini Jheel and Roshnara Bagh, Delhi as Tourist Spots

1497. SHRI D.S. AHIRE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated May 7, 1998 wherein it has been stated that the Roshnara Bagh and Naini Jheel in Model Town would be developed as major tourist spots of Delhi;

(b) the details of the work undertaken;

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Government propose to develop more tourist spots in other parts of the country;

(e) if so, the details of the plan for the current year, State-wise; and

(f) the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM : (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of Delhi has been asked to prepare the blue prints for development. The State Government has however renovated the Boat Club building and upgraded tourist facilities at Naini Lake.

(d) to (f) The Union Government provides financial assistance to every States/U.T. Governments for the development of tourist spots every year on the basis of specific proposals received from them. All the State Governments have not finalised the project proposals for financial assistance during current year. The Union Ministry of Tourism does not make any prior allocation of funds to State/U.T. Governments in this regard.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts of SC/ST

1498. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI :

SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of posts lying vacant in Banks and the Life Insurance Corporation of