

logy besides improvement of bilateral trade and tourism. This meeting would facilitate closer interaction between Indian and French enterprises and contribute to the volume of trade between the two countries.

Production and Import of Almonds

1454. SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

SHRI JAG PAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of almonds during the last three years, Statewise and year-wise;

(b) the quantity of almonds and other dry fruits imported from different countries during the same period and the amount involved there-in year-wise;

(c) the details of licences for import of almonds issued to the actual dry fruit dealers during the above period;

(d) the quantity and value of almonds proposed to be imported this year under "Export Incentive Scheme";

(e) whether there is any subsisting agreement with U.S.A. for import of almonds, if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the import of almonds has adversely affected the production; and

(g) if so, the remedial steps taken or proposed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) The official estimates on production of Almonds are not available as reported by the Agriculture Ministry.

(b) A statement is given below.

(c) Firm-wise import licensing data is not maintained. However, the particulars of all import licences are regularly published in the "Weekly Bulletin of Import Licences, Export Licences and Industrial Licences" and copies of which are made available in the Parliament Library.

(d) Under the Import Policy for Registered Exporters, import of Dry Fruit including almonds is permitted against the export of Apricot Kernels/Walnut Kernels upto 10% of the fob value of exports. Import of almonds is also permitted against Additional Licences issued to Export Houses/Trading Houses, upto 5% within the overall value of such licences. However, any forecast on the value of the item will not be possible as such import, depends on the individual's options.

(e) In terms of the Record of Understanding between the Government of India and the Government of the U.S.A., the Government agreed to set its global authorisation of almonds (shelled and unshelled) for the period ending 31st March, 1991 at US \$ 20 Million annually. It also agreed to increase the minimum value of licensing to at least Rs. 20,000.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Import of Almonds, fresh or dried, shelled or not during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 and major countries from which imported.

Sl. No.	Description of Items	1985-86		1986-87		1987-88		Names of major countries from which imported	Qty. in Thousand Kgs. Value in Rs. Lakhs
		Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	

Almonds, fresh or dried shelled or not

1.	Almonds, Kernels . . .	286	54.35	2257	305.39	635	94.98	Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, U.S.A., Iraq and United Arab Emirates.	
2.	Almonds in shell . . .	4733	927.53	3318	601.39	5591	987.01	Australia, Iran, U.S.A., Pakistan, Singapore, Afghanistan and Iraq.	

Source : Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India Vol. II (Imports) published by Dte. General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta.