

Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *180
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.03.2020

ROTTING OF IMPORTED ONION AT PORTS

*180. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government may soon offload imported onions at a highly subsidized rate of ₹ 22-23 per kg., down by around 60 per cent from the current offered rate;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Government is apprehensive about the rotting of onion at ports;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that there were no takers for the imported onion due to many reasons; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*180 FOR 06.03.2020 REGARDING ROTTING OF IMPORTED ONION AT PORTS.

(a) : Government initially offered imported onions to States/ UTs at cost which ranged from ₹ 50/- to ₹ 60/- per kg ex-Mumbai plus transportation cost when the retail prices of onions were prevailing around ₹ 72/- to ₹ 85/- per kg in the country. Subsequently, to encourage demand of imported onions from States/ UTs, Government offered imported onions to States/ UTs at the prevailing market/ mandi/ online portal rates which as on 21.01.2020 was about Rs. 21/kg. The offer rate to States/ UTs changed as per the prevailing rates on market/ mandi/ online portal.

(b) : Onion is a perishable commodity, and cannot be stored for longer time period. Hence, to avoid damage/ driage/ rotting of imported onions, Government directed MMTC and NAFED to dispose imported onions in market/ mandi/ online portal at the prevailing rates, in addition to supplies to States/ UTs.

(c) & (d) : Some of the States have not preferred to take imported onions on account of reasons which primarily include moderating prices and improving availability of onions, lack of retailing network, lower consumer preference for imported onions, not-so-preferred taste of imported onions due to its lesser pungency, availability of local variety etc. However, out of the total imported quantity of about 35,857 MT onions, as on 02.03.2020, about 27,978 MT imported onions have been disposed off by NAFED and MMTC, including supplies of about 3392 metric tonnes of imported onions to various States/ UTs based on their demand, as detailed at **Annexure**.

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (c) & (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*180 FOR 06.03.2020 REGARDING ROTTING OF IMPORTED ONION AT PORTS.

Dispatch of imported onions to various States/ UTs

S.No.	States/ UTs	Quantity (in MT)
1	Andhra Pradesh	1230.42
2	Kerala	49.89
3	Telangana	111.68
4	Uttar Pradesh	211.79
5	Uttarakhand	287.08
6	West Bengal	123.19
7	Himachal Pradesh	120.64
8	Assam	536.26
9	Goa	50.31
10	J&K	45.71
11	Haryana	*342.34
12	Meghalaya	282.59
	Total	3391.90

Source: NAFED

*Out of this, a quantity of 331.63 MT is reported to be not accepted by Haryana Government and the stock was diverted for sale in Local Mandi.
