

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 999
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th FEBRUARY, 2023

IMPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

999. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India has become more reliant on importing a number of agricultural products rather than producing them domestically;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken to have competitiveness among domestic producers to tackle the availability of cheaper imports?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (c): During 2021-22, the total imports of agricultural and allied commodities were Rs. 2.38 lakh crore as compared to Rs.3.74 lakh crore of total exports in this sector. Major agriculture products imported by India are Vegetable Oils, Fresh Fruits, Cashew, Pulses etc. The import of these products can be attributed to our comparatively low production base in these sectors vis-à-vis our domestic demand due to our large population base. Moreover, some of these products such as cashews etc., are imported not only for the domestic consumption, but also for onward exports after value addition. To reduce dependency on imported edible oils and pulses, the Government has been implementing various programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and National Mission on Oilseeds & Oil palm (NMOOP) to improve the production of pulses, and essentials edible oils in the country. Besides, under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) also, funds are being provided to states for improving the production of these commodities.
