

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3892
ANSWERED ON 04/04/2025

IMPORT OF DENT CORN AND ITS IMPACT ON CORN FARMERS

3892. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has permitted import of 4.98 lakh metric tonnes of Dent Corn through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED), if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of testing conducted on imported Dent Corn to ensure compliance with India's GM crop regulations; and
- (c) whether Government has conducted any study to assess the long-term impact of affordable Dent Corn imports on the profitability of Indian corn farmers and Research and Development (R&D) efforts of Indian seed companies; and
- (d) if so, the details of its key findings?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) Government of India allowed import of 4,98,900 MT of Dent/Flint corn under the Tariff Rate Quota Scheme through NAFED as well as state Cooperative Marketing Federations in line with the Public Notice No. 13/2024-25 dated 26.06.2024 of the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). As on date, NAFED has not imported any variety of corn under the said notification, since the market prices are not favorable.

(b) In order to ensure the compliance of imported food consignments with India's GM crop regulations, Government of India through Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issued an order on 21.08.2020 mandating that every consignment of imported food products,

including maize, mentioned under Annexure I of the said Order, must be accompanied with a Non-GM Origin cum GM-Free Certificate as per the format of Annexure II, issued by Competent National Authority of exporting country.

(c) & (d) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, has the mandate of crop improvement. As far as maize is concerned, ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research (IIMR), Ludhiana has been exclusively assigned with the responsibility of Research and Development (R&D) on Maize. Besides, the various centers of the ICAR-AII India Co-ordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Maize are also engaged in the R&D of Maize in different states and are contributing significantly in development of location specific high yielding climate resilient varieties/hybrids for improving production of Maize.

Further, regarding the study to assess the long-term impact of affordable dent corn imports on the profitability of Indian corn farmers and the research and development efforts of Indian seed companies, most of the available maize hybrids in India are flint corn followed by semi-dent and dent corn. ICAR-IIMR is in the initial phase of testing the available dent corn and flint corn hybrids in the country for their suitability to ethanol production.
