

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1139
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17th DECEMBER, 2018

EXPORT OF PULSES

1139. SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has removed the prohibition on export of all types of pulses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has taken steps to ensure availability of pulses at affordable prices in the country while according permission for pulses' exports;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the extent to which these steps are helpful?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. The Government has removed the ban on export of all varieties of pulses, including organic pulses without any quantitative ceilings on 22nd November, 2017. There are various factors which led to removal of ban on export of pulses, which include:

- (i) The domestic production of pulses, which was stagnating at about 14-15 million tonnes till 2009-10 had reached 22.95 million tonnes in 2016-17 which was the highest ever and the production of pulses in 2017-18, was expected to sustain at the same levels;
- (ii) While the Government supported the farmers by providing attractive Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the pulses and public procurement of pulses to the tune of 20 lakh tonnes, there were reports of market procurement price of pulses falling below the MSP due to the increased production of pulses;

- (iii) There were demands from various stakeholders to allow export of pulses to enable the farmers to get a better realization; and
- (iv) There was adequate buffer stock of pulses to meet the domestic requirement at affordable prices.

(c) & (d) The Government has taken several steps to ensure availability of pulses at affordable prices in the country, which include:

- (i) Government has approved creation of a buffer stock of upto 20 lakh tonnes of pulses;
- (ii) About 20.50 lakh tonnes of pulses were procured for the buffer stock, which includes 16.71 lakh tonnes procured domestically and 3.79 lakh tonnes imported during the financial year 2015-16 and 2016-17, which has helped in moderating the prices of pulses;
- (iii) Pulses from the buffer are released / disposed off through various channels such as supplies to States/UTs, open market operations, supplies to various central Ministries/Departments implementing schemes having nutrition components like MDM, ICDS etc., supplies to Army, CPMFs etc.
- (iv) Government has set up an Empowered Committee under Secretary, Department of Food & Public Distribution, comprising Secretaries of Department of Commerce, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Department of Revenue, Department of Consumer Affairs and DGFT to regularly review the export/import policy on pulses and consider taking measures depending on domestic production and demand, domestic and international prices and international trade volumes.

(e) The creation of buffer stock of pulses, its disposal operations and bumper production of pulses during 2016-17 and 2017-18 have *inter-alia* helped in moderating the prices of pulses and ensuring its availability in the domestic market.
