

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1751
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.07.2019

IMPORT OF ARHAR DAL

1751. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether keeping in view the sharp increase in prices of onion and Arhar dal, the Government has removed incentives for fresh export of onions and doubled the import of Arhar, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of present demand and supply gap of these items in the country; and
- (c) whether the Government proposes to import these items to meet domestic demand and other steps taken or being taken by the Government to restrict the prices of these items?

ANSWER

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री
(श्री दानवे रावसाहेब दादाराव)

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO)

(a): The benefits to exporters of onions under Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) was withdrawn through notification dated 11.06.2019. Government has decided to enhance the import limit on Tur under Quantitative Restriction from 2 Lakh MT (LMT) to 4 LMT for the year 2019-20.

(b): Details on total availability is at **Annexure**.

(c): As on date, the Government does not propose to import Tur/onions. Government has taken various measures to ensure availability of pulses and moderate its price fluctuations. Such measures include initiatives for increasing production and productivity of pulses through National Food Security Mission (NFSM), promulgating appropriate Minimum Support Price (MSP) to incentivize production, etc. The Central Government has built buffer stock of pulses from which calibrated releases are undertaken from time to time to moderate price fluctuations. Pulses from buffer stocks are also being utilized by States/UTs under Mid-day Meal, Integrated Child Development Services and Public Distribution System Schemes. Further, Government has also signed a MoU with Mozambique in July, 2016 for assured supply of Tur and other pulses. In addition, trade policy with respect to pulses is suitably amended from time to time to appropriately regulate availability of pulses.

Under Price Stabilization Fund (PSF), buffer of around 48,052 MT of onions has been built as on 23.06.19, for calibrated release during the lean season for moderating prices. The Central Government has offered onions from the buffer to States/UTs at no profit no loss basis to improve availability and moderate prices of onion during lean season. In addition, incentive on exports of onions under Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) has been withdrawn since 11th June 2019 to improve domestic availability and moderate prices. Government also closely monitors prices of pulses and onion for timely interventions in case of price fluctuations.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1751 FOR 02.07.2019 REGARDING IMPORT OF ARHAR DAL.

AVAILABILITY OF TUR AND ONIONS		
2018-19	Tur	Onions
Production	35 Lakh MT*	232.84 Lakh MT^
Imports	5.30 Lakh MT	7,081 MT
Exports	9,328 MT	21.84 Lakh MT
Total Availability	40.21 LMT	21.11 LMT

Note:

* as per 3rd advanced estimates released by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.

^as per 2nd advanced estimates released by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare
