

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2858**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 10<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2019**

**AGREEMENTS BETWEEN INDIA AND MOZAMBIQUE**

2858. SHRI PINAKI MISHRA:

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

- (a) whether during 2016 when the rates of pulses rose sky high, India signed an agreement with Mozambique to double its import for the coming five years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it was necessary for the Government to sign an agreement for such a long period of five years and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether signing of such an agreement with a foreign nation has totally displeased the farmers and the miller community and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government is now trying to strike a balance between the consumers and the farmers by imposing a quantitative restriction on the import of pulses and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ( श्री पीयूष गोयल )  
THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

- (a) Yes, Sir. India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mozambique on cooperation in the field of Production and Marketing of Pigeon Peas on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 for a period of five years.

(b) & (c) : The MoU was signed keeping in view the domestic prevailing prices and availability scenario and with the objective of promoting production of pulses in Mozambique and encourage trade of pulses between India and Mozambique. Under the MoU between India and Mozambique, both parties have agreed to target minimum yearly quantities of imports of pigeon peas and other pulses from Mozambique to India till 2020-21 whether through private channels or Government to Government (G2G) sales. Government of India (GoI) is committed to purchase pulses from Mozambique only to the extent of shortfall in targets of imports by private traders. Till now, no imports of pulses have been made from Mozambique on Government account under the MoU. The minimum agreed quantities of import of pulses from Mozambique under the MoU during 2016-17 to 2020-21 are as follows:-

Year	Quantity/ Targets for Imports in lakh metric tonnes (LMT)
2016-17	1.00
2017-18	1.25
2018-19	1.50
2019-20	1.75
2020-21	2.00

Domestic production of pulses in the country have remained short of the domestic consumption requirements. The gap between demand and supply of pulses in the country are met by imports. Domestic Production and imports of pulses during 2016-17 to 2020-21 are given below:-

Year	Total Production of Pulses (in LMT)	Total Imports of Pulses (in LMT)
2015-16	163.2	57.98
2016-17	231.3	66.09
2017-18	254.2	56.08
2018-19 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Advance Estimates)	232.2	25.28
2019-20	-	2.45

Source: Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DACFW) and D/o Commerce

The import targets of pulses under the MoU are very small as compared to domestic production of pulses. The Import of pulses did not have any significant impact on domestic farmers and miller community.

(d). In view of bumper domestic production of pulses during 2017-18 and 2018-19, and Government of India's commitment to ensure better prices for farmers, quantitative restrictions have been imposed on import of some of the major pulses to protect farmers' interest. The import policy of Tur, Moong, and Urad was changed from 'Free' to 'Restricted' in the month of August, 2017. Peas was added in the month of April, 2018. The decision was based on the direction of the 'Inter – Ministerial Committee to review the prices of Agricultural Commodities.

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