

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 770**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 26<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2019**

**IMPORT OF ARECANUT**

770. SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:

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

- (a) whether arecanut is being imported from other countries including Nepal, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Indonesia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise and year-wise for the last two years;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of the problems of arecanut growers in the country due to fall in the prices and production of arecanut in domestic market; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to solve the problems of arecanut growers and to ensure adequate prices for their produce?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**  
**(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

- (a) & (b): Import of Arecanut has taken place mainly from Sri Lanka and Indonesia during the last two years and current year. Country wise and year wise import data of areca nut for the last two years is annexed.
- (c) & (d) To protect the farmers, Government raised the Minimum Import Price from Rs.162/ to Rs.251/-per kg in the month of January, 2017. Representations were received regarding large scale import of areca nut despite imposition of MIP, thus hurting the domestic farmers/growers. To address the issue, Government further amended the import policy of areca nut in July, 2018 by prohibiting its imports below the MIP of Rs.251/- per KG. The government has also taken, inter alia, the following steps to alleviate the problems of domestic areca nut growers:
  - (i) The import duty of Arecanut has been fixed at 100%.
  - (ii) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has advised its field offices to stringently adhere to the quality standards of arecanut before clearing the import consignments. Moreover, the Bureau of Indian Standards has been asked to formulate standards for Arecanut. This has been done with a view to prevent inferior quality Arecanut from entering Indian market and destabilizing the domestic prices.

- (iii) For import from our FTA partners, Customs authorities have been advised to check the Rules of Origin with utmost care so as to ensure that Arecanut grown in countries other than SAARC is not imported through our neighbouring countries taking advantage of low import duty under SAFTA.

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## Annex

**India's Imports of Arecanuts, item-wise & country-wise, for the last two financial years  
(2017-18 to 2018-19) and the current financial year 2019-20 (upto April, 2019)**

ITCHS	Item Description	Country	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20 (upto April, 2019)	
			Quantity (TON)	Value (Mill. US \$)	Quantity (TON)	Value (Mill. US \$)	Quantity (TON)	Value (Mill. US \$)
08028010	WHOLE ARECA NUTS	INDONESIA			656.50	1.85	50.00	0.20
		MADAGASCAR						
		MYANMAR						
		PAKISTAN IR						
		SRI LANKA DSR	276.15	1.09	264.00	1.02		
		VIETNAM SOC REP						
	<b>WHOLE ARECA NUTS Total</b>		<b>276.15</b>	<b>1.09</b>	<b>920.50</b>	<b>2.88</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>0.20</b>
08028020	SPLIT ARECA NUTS	BANGLADESH PR						
		INDONESIA	36.00	0.03	3383.00	5.28	216.00	0.31
		MALAYSIA						
		MYANMAR						
		NEPAL						
		PAKISTAN IR	1.80	0.01				
		SRI LANKA DSR	51.57	0.21				
		TIMOR-LESTE						
	<b>SPLIT ARECA NUTS Total</b>		<b>89.37</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>3383.00</b>	<b>5.28</b>	<b>216.00</b>	<b>0.31</b>
08028090	OTHER ARECA NUTS	AFGHANISTAN			3.36	0.01		
		AUSTRALIA			0.40	0.00		
		BANGLADESH PR						
		INDONESIA			3084.00	12.27	189.00	0.23

		MYANMAR						
		PAKISTAN IR						
		SINGAPORE						
		SRI LANKA DSR	11509.69	45.89	10728.96	40.29	18.00	0.07
		U ARAB EMTS						
		U K						
		VIETNAM SOC REP			32.00	0.08		
	<b>OTHER ARECA NUTS Total</b>		<b>11509.69</b>	<b>45.89</b>	<b>13848.72</b>	<b>52.66</b>	<b>207.00</b>	<b>0.29</b>

**Note 1: No import of item having ITCHS Code '08028030' (Ground Areca nuts) have been reported during the said periods.**

**Note 2: Figures pertaining to the financial years 2018-19 & 2019-20 are Provisional and subject to changes**