

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4745
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29th MARCH, 2023

IMPORT OF VEGETABLE OIL

4745. SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to import vegetable oil in view of the increase in the prices of edible oils;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, country/quantity-wise including Indonesia and Malaysia;
- (c) whether there is likely to be any adverse effect on the producers of oilseeds in the country as a result of such imports; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the interests of the farmers?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) & (b): No. There is no proposal by the Government to import vegetable oils. The Import Policy of Edible Oils is 'Free', and private importers may import Edible Oils from exporting countries. Further, domestic Wholesale and Retail prices of major edible oils are on a declining trend.

(c) & (d): The Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, National Food Security Mission- Oilseeds & Oil palm (NFSM-OS&OP) from 2018-19 to augment the availability of vegetable oils and to reduce the import of edible oils by increasing the production and productivity of oilseeds (Groundnut, Soybean, Rapeseed & Mustard, Sunflower, Safflower, Sesame, Niger, Linseed and Castor) and area expansion of Oil Palm & Tree Borne Oilseeds (Olive, Mahua, Kokum, Wild Apricot, Neem, Jojoba, Karanja, Simaroba, Tung, Cheura and Jatropha) in the country.

The Government has launched a separate Mission for Oil Palm, which is the National Mission for Edible Oils (Oil Palm) - NMEO(OP) in 2021 to promote oil palm cultivation for making the country Aatmnirbhar in edible oils with special focus on North-Eastern States and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. NMEO (OP) has been launched by targeting an additional 6.5 lakh hectare area from 2021-22 to 2025-26. Both NFSM-Oilseeds and NMEO (OP) are being implemented in the country with the objective of augmenting the availability of edible oils by increasing the production and productivity of oilseeds and oil palm and reducing the import burden. Due to these major initiatives, area, production and yield of oilseeds has increased.
