

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1022**  
**ANSWERED ON 26/07/2023**

**PALM OIL IMPORTS**

**1022. SHRI RITESH PANDEY:**

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

- (a) the reasons attributed to the decline of 14.59% in India's palm oil imports to 4,39,173 tonnes in May this year as compared to 5,14,022 tonnes in May 2022;
- (b) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to address the decline in India's total vegetable oil imports from 10,61,416 tonnes in May last year to 10,58,263 tonnes in May this year, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any specific initiatives are in place to stimulate vegetable oil imports and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government plans to address the significant increase in shipments of crude sunflower oil, which rose to 2,95,000 tonnes in May this year from 1,18,000 tonnes in May 2022; and
- (e) whether any policies or incentives are aimed at promoting the import of sunflower oil, if so, the details in this regard?

**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) India's domestic production of edible oils is not sufficient to meet the demand and the shortfall is met through import of crude palm oil, refined palm oil, crude sunflower oil and crude soyabean oil. However, the quantum of import of particular oil varies depending on various factors such as price of competitive oils, the availability of stock, export policy of exporting countries, parity in domestic market, etc. During May 2023, the Free on Board (FOB) international prices of palm oils were higher than the international prices of crude sunflower as well as crude soyabean oil which might have resulted in lower import of palm oils and higher import of sunflower oil.

(b) to (e) Higher prices of palm oil in May 2023 as compared to May 2022, and higher stock availability of palm oils at the Indian ports at the end of April 2023 as compared to April 2022, have

contributed to lower vegetable oil imports during May 2023 rather than stimulating vegetable oil imports. Higher imports of crude sunflower oil during May 2023 may be attributed to international prices of palm oils being higher than the international prices of crude sunflower oil.

The Government's efforts are aimed at reducing India's dependence on imported edible oils. The Government of India has been implementing various Schemes and Missions to augment the edible oilseeds and edible oils production in the country so that import dependency can be reduced. The Government has been implementing National Food Security Mission-Oilseeds & Oil Palm (NFSM-OS&OP) since 2018-19 to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds and area expansion of oil palm and tree-borne oilseeds in the country. Further, in 2021, Government launched the "National Mission for Edible Oils (Oil Palm)' - NMEO (OP) to enhance edible oils availability in the country by harnessing oil palm area expansion, improving productivity, and increasing crude palm oil production.

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