

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2809
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2023

IMPORT OF PULSES

2809. SHRI POCHA BRAHMANANDA REDDY:

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

- (a) the details of domestic production and foreign imports of pulses in the country in the last five years;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps to reduce import dependence for pulses;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has entered into agreements with any country to facilitate import of pulses; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to ensure that domestic producers are not harmed by such imports?

ANSWER

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री
(श्री अश्विनी कुमार चौबे)

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) : The country has attained the self-sufficiency in case of Chana and Moong production. In case of three other major pulses i.e Tur, Urad and Masur, though the production has increased, climatic uncertainties have resulted in production fluctuations. Owing to specific consumption preferences coupled with production fluctuations India still need to import Tur, Urad and Masur to meet the objective of ensuring availability of pulses at affordable prices for domestic consumers. Import policy of pulses is formulated on the basis of close and continuous monitoring of domestic production, availability and prices scenario including landed cost of imported stocks vis-à-vis MSP by the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) comprising of Department of Consumer Affairs, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Department of Commerce. The decisions regarding opening or restriction of imports and the rates for import duties are done keeping the interests of both the domestic farmers and the consumers to ensure availability of these pulses at affordable prices to domestic consumers. The details of domestic production and imports of pulses in the country in the last five years is given at **Annexure**.

(b) & (c) : The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) implemented by Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW), aims to increase domestic production of pulses through enhanced productivity, crop area expansion under pulses and promoting research and development for evolving better varieties. In addition, the Government announces Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 22 notified crops to ensure remunerative prices to farmers. Increase in pulses production from 220.76 LMT in 2018-19 to 273.02 LMT in 2021-22 is a testament of the initiatives taken by the Government in achieving self-sufficiency.

(d) & (e) : Presently India has Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 3 countries i.e. Mozambique, Malawi and Myanmar for import of Pulses. MoU with Mozambique which was signed on 7th July, 2016 for five years from 2016-17 to 2020-21 & MoU has been extended for another five years till 2025-26. MoU provides for import of 2.0 Lakh MT of Tur from Mozambique through private trade. MoU with Malawi signed on 16th June, 2021 provides for an import of 0.50 Lakh MT of Tur through private trade for five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26. MoU with Myanmar signed on 18th June, 2021 provides for an import of 1.0 Lakh MT of Tur and 2.5 Lakh MT of Urad through private trade for five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

To further incentivize pulses production and support the domestic farmers, the government announced the policy to procure Tur, Urad and Masur without ceiling during 2023-24 season. The policy has been extended for the 2024-25 season.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2809 FOR 20.12.2023 REGARDING IMPORT OF PULSES.

Production of Pulses in country during last five years(in LMT)						
Pulses	Season	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Tur	Kharif	33.15	38.92	43.16	42.2	33.12
Gram	Rabi	99.38	110.78	119.11	135.44	122.67
Urad	Kharif	23.63	13.3	15.07	18.65	17.68
	Rabi	6.97	7.52	7.23	9.11	6.33
	Summer	0	0	0	0	2.3
	Total	30.6	20.81	22.3	27.76	26.31
Moong	Kharif	17.84	18.26	19.96	14.8	17.18
	Rabi	6.71	6.873	10.89	16.86	1.1
	Summer	0	0	0	0	18.48
	Total	24.55	25.09	30.85	31.66	36.76
Lentil	Rabi	12.28	11.03	14.94	12.69	15.59
Other Kharif		6.29	8.73	7.99	6.69	8.24
Other Rabi		14.5	14.89	16.28	16.58	17.9
Total Pulses Production	Kharif	80.91	79.21	86.18	82.35	76.21
	Rabi	139.85	151.04	168.45	190.67	163.58
	Summer		0	0	0	20.79
	Total	220.76	230.25	254.63	273.02	260.58
Source: M/o DA&FW						

Import of Pulses during last five years(in LMT)					
<i>(Quantity in LMT)</i>					
Pulses	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Tur	5.31	4.5	4.43	8.4	8.94
Moong	0.84	0.69	0.82	1.96	0.32
Urad	4.9	3.12	3.35	6.12	5.25
Chana	1.86	3.71	2.95	2.02	0.63
Masur	2.49	8.54	11.16	6.67	8.58
Source: DoC website					
