

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1479
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11TH FEBRUARY, 2020

LOSSES FACED BY ARECA NUT FARMERS

1479. SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that areca nut farmers are suffering heavy losses due to illegal import of areca nut;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is taking any effective measures to curb illegal import of areca nut into the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has made any policy intervention to protect areca nut farmers from its illegal import; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a)& (b): Sporadic incidences of illegal import of areca nut into the country through Myanmar and Nepal have been reported. However, these incidences involve small quantity as compared to import of 18152 MT of areca nut during 2018-19 in the country.

(c) & (d): Department of Revenue have been requested to check the rules of origin with utmost care so as to ensure that areca nut grown in countries other than South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is not imported through our neighboring countries taking advantage of low import duty under South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA).

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) have advised its field offices to stringently adhere to the quality standards of areca nut before clearing the import consignments.

(e) & (f): To protect our domestic areca nut farmers, import duty of 100% has been imposed. Further, Minimum Import Price (MIP) has been fixed at Rs. 251/ kg on areca nut and import of areca nut is prohibited, if the CIF (Cost, Insurance and Freight) value is below Rs. 251/kg. Thus, adequate measures have been placed so as to prevent import of cheap areca nut into the country.