

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2526
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH MARCH, 2021

IMPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

2526. SHRI BALUBHAU ALIAS SURESHNARAYAN DHANORKAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government is still importing agricultural products, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has introduced any measures to reduce dependency on agricultural imports, if so, the details thereof; and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?
- (c) the policies and schemes to ensure self sufficiency in agriculture?

ANSWER

MINISTER of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): During 2019-20 the import of Agri commodities was 19.91 USD Billion. 78% of the Agri import consisted of vegetable oil (48%) and Pulses (7%), fresh fruits (10%), Cashew nut (6%) and Spices (7%). The import of Vegetable oils and Pulses was undertaken with a view to bridge the gap between domestic demand and supply. Raw cashew is imported to process it into cashew kernel as we have huge processing capacity and resulting goods are partly exported. Further, fresh fruits are imported mainly due to preference for specific products in India. Among the various spices being imported, turmeric comes first in terms of quantity, as Indian turmeric is low in curcumin content which is the key ingredient to extract essential oils from turmeric.

(b): To reduce dependency on imported pulses and edible oils; Government has been implementing various programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and National Mission on Oilseeds & Oil palm (NMOOP) to improve the production of pulses, and essential edible oils in the country. Besides, under RashtriyaKrishiVikasYojana (RKVY), funds are being provided to states for improving the production of pulses. To address high import of turmeric, steps are being taken to organize cultivation of varieties with high curcumin content in clusters in suitable areas. To meet the growing demand of raw cashew nuts in the country, the government seeks to increase the area with high yielding varieties, high density planting, rejuvenation of senile orchards, canopy management, etc.

(c): With a view to ensure self sufficiency in agriculture, Government is also implementing flagship scheme of distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers so that the use of fertilizers can be rationalized. "Per drop more crop" initiative under which drip/sprinkler irrigation is being encouraged for optimal utilization of water, reducing cost of inputs and increasing productivity. "ParamparagatKrishiVikasYojana (PKVY)" is being implemented for promoting organic farming. Under e-NAM initiative farmers are being provided an electronic transparent and competitive online trading platform. Under "HarMedh Par Ped", agro forestry is being promoted for additional income. Bee keeping has been promoted under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) to increase the productivity of crops through pollination and increase the honey production as an additional source of income of farmers.
