

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2398**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2022**

**IMPORT OF ARECANUT**

2398. SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:

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

- (a) whether arecanut is imported from other countries including Bangladesh and Sri Lanka;
- (b) if so, the details of the total arecanut imported in the country during the last three years and the current year, country-wise;
- (c) whether there has been an adverse impact of such import on the prices of arecanut in the domestic market; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the measures being taken by the Government to protect the interests of arecanut growers in the country?

**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): Import of Arecanut has taken place mainly from Sri Lanka and Indonesia during the last three years and the current year. Country-wise and year-wise import data of arecanut for the last three years and current year are annexed.

(c) & (d): Average price of Arecanut since 2019-20 is given in the table below.

(Price in Rs/quintal)

period	Kozhikode (Arecanut dry)			Kasaragod (Arecanut Dry)		
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 ( till Jan, 2022)	2019- 20	2020-21	2021-22 ( till Jan, 2022)
<b>Average prices</b>	21797	28658	35397	27158	33335	42872

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

The production of arecanut in the country during 2020-21 was 15.63 lakh tonnes and the import was 23988 tonnes, which is only 1.5% of the production, this may not have much impact on prices.

The Government has taken the following measures to discourage the import of arecanut into the country.

- (i) The Arecanut import in the country is restricted by imposing an import duty of 100%. (As per the 99/2011-Customs notification dt. 9-11-2011, the least developed SAARC countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Afghanistan have been exempted from paying the whole of this import duty).
- (ii) Customs authorities have been advised to check the rules of origin with utmost care so as to ensure that Arecanut grown in countries other than SAARC is not imported through our neighboring countries taking advantage of import duty exemption under SAFTA.
- (iii) Imposed Minimum Import Price (MIP) on arecanut to restrict the unabated import and to prevent entry of inferior quality Arecanut into Indian market and destabilizing the domestic prices. It was first introduced in August 2012 and the then MIP was Rs 75/kg and it has been revised from time to time in proportion to the increase in cost of production and price. At present, the MIP is fixed at a CIF (Cost, Insurance and Freight) value of Rs 251/kg, import of arecanut below this value is prohibited.
- (iv) To address the issue, Government further amended the import policy of areca nut in July, 2018 by prohibiting its imports below the MIP of Rs.251/- per KG.
- (v) The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has advised its field offices to stringently adhere to the quality standards of arecanut before clearing the import consignments.
- (vi) Promoting technology of multi-species cropping in arecanut gardens through establishing frontline demonstration plots and conducting training programmes.

- (vii) Demonstrating the effect of the new fungicide Mandipropamid, in management of fruit rot in selected areas of Kerala and Karnataka.
- (viii) Frontline demonstration plots are being established to popularize the use of EPN (Entomopathogenic Nematode) in management of root grubs in Arecanut.
- (ix) Demonstration of Arecanut Dwarf Hybrids to promote its advantages among progressive farmers.

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**Annexure**

**Statement referred to in reply of part (a) & (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred question no. 2398 for answer on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022.**

Country-wise and year-wise details of Arecanut import:

(Quantity: tonnes, Value: Rs in lakhs)

Country	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22(Apr-Jan)*	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Sri Lanka	10993	29059	9555	25572	10093	27911	9076	28353
Indonesia	7124	13637	7107	8535	9861	12383	4885	8421
Myanmar					3818	9994	2882	7675
UAE					217	570	612	1228
Vietnam	32	57	98	145				
Afghanistan	3	9						
Australia	0	2						
Malaysia							222	583
Nepal							120	307
Singapore							93	245
Canada			1	5				
<b>Total</b>	<b>18152</b>	<b>42764</b>	<b>16761</b>	<b>34257</b>	<b>23988</b>	<b>50859</b>	<b>17890</b>	<b>46812</b>

Source; DGCI&S. \* Provisional

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