GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3407 TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD MARCH, 2022

IMPORTS OF EDIBLE OILS

3407. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

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 import of edible oils from Ukraine and Russia;
- (b) whether the recent instability between Ukraine and Russia has caused any problems in terms of import of edible oils and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken in this regard;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the domestic production of edible oils and make India atmanirbhar in terms of edible oils; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to lower the rising prices of edible oils in the country?

A N S W E R MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a): The details of import of edible oils from Russia and Ukraine during the last three years is given below:

Year (April-March)	Import of edible oils from Ukraine (in LMT)	Imports of edible oils from Russia (in LMT)
2018-19	24.87	0.46
2019-20	19.77	3.81
2020-21	17.44	3.48

Source: Department of Commerce

- (b): The import of edible oils is under Open General Licence (OGL). The private industry imports the required quantities from abroad. Government has held meetings with private industry/edible oil associations for facilitating imports.
- (c): The Government of India has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, National Food Security Mission- Oilseeds & Oil palm (NFSM-OS&OP) from 2018-19 to augment the availability of vegetable oils and to reduce the import of edible oils by increasing the production and productivity of oilseeds and area expansion of Oil Palm & Tree Borne Oilseeds in the country.

Now, the Government has launched a separate Mission for Oil Palm, which is the National Mission for Edible Oils (Oil Palm)- NMEO (OP) to promote oil palm cultivation for making the country Atmanirbhar in edible oils with special focus on North-Eastern States and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- (d): In order to improve the domestic availability and to keep prices of edible oils under control, the Government has been rationalizing the duty structure on edible oils during 2021-22 to reduce the price burden of common man. The following measures have been taken:
- In a bid to control the rise in cooking oil prices, the Central Government has cut the basic duty on Crude Palm Oil, Crude Soyabean Oil and Crude Sunflower Oil from 2.5% to Nil. The Agri-cess on these Oils has been brought to 5%.
- The basic duty on Refined Soyabean oil and Refined Sunflower Oil has been slashed to 17.5% from the current 32.5% and the basic duty on Refined Palm Oils has been reduced from 17.5% to 12.5%
- The Government has extended the free import of Refined Palm Oils for a period upto 31.12.2022
- The current basic rate of import duty of zero percent on Crude Palm Oil, Crude Soyabean oil and Crude Sunflower Oil has been extended upto 30th September, 2022 and the rate of import duty on Refined Palm Oils at 12.5%, Refined Soyabean oil and Refined Sunflower Oil at 17.5% has also been extended up to 30th September, 2022.
- To control prices of edible oils, futures trading in mustard oil on NCDEX has been suspended and stock limits have been imposed.

- The Department of Food and Public Distribution had imposed stock limits on Edible Oils and Oilseeds w.e.f. 8th October, 2021 for a period up to 31st March, 2022.
- Further, an amended Order "The Removal of Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits and Movement Restrictions on Specified Foodstuffs (Amendment) Order, 2022" has been notified w.e.f 03rd February, 2022 specifying the quantities of stock limits of edible oil & oil-seeds, to be implemented by all States/UTs. This Order has been issued to ensure the smooth availability of edible oils and oil-seeds in the country.
