

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 363
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 22ND JULY, 2025

AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS

363. DR. K SUDHAKAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has made any targets for ending agricultural imports of pulses, spices, vegetables and fruits into the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of steps and measures being taken to make the country self sufficient in production of pulses, spices, vegetables and fruits;
- (c) the details of major export destination of spices, pulses, vegetables and fruits from India;
- (d) the details of steps and measures are being taken to reduce the imports of edible vegetable oil in to the country;
- (e) the details of the steps and measures taken to increase the local procurement of vegetables and fruits and ensuring that farmers adequately receive an assured amount for all vegetables and fruits in the market; and
- (f) the details of policy with respect to import of agricultural produce from countries that stand against our country's interests globally, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): India is self-reliant in most of the agri commodities. However, vegetable oils, pulses, fresh fruits and spices are major agri commodities which are imported. To increase the production of pulses across the country, the DA&FW is implementing National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM)-Pulses programme in all 28 States and 2 UTs viz: J&K and Ladakh. Under NFSNM-Pulses, assistance is given to farmers through state governments on various interventions such as demonstration of crop production & protection technologies, distribution & production of newly released high yielding/ stress tolerant/ climate resilient varieties/ hybrids and capacity building of farmers etc. In addition, the mission also provides support to Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) & State Agricultural Universities (SAUs)/Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for technology back stopping and transfer of technology to the farmer under supervision of Subject Matter Specialists/Scientists.

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented w.e.f. 2014-15, for holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, spices etc. Under MIDH, assistance is also provided for activities such as production of planting material, vegetable seed production, coverage of area with improved cultivars, rejuvenation of senile orchards, protected cultivation, creation of water resources, adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), organic farming, including in situ generation of organic inputs. These measures are adopted to increase the production and improve the quality of fruits and vegetables. Capacity building of farmers and technicians is also provided for adopting improved technologies. The scheme also envisages creation of post harvest management (PHM) and marketing for better price realization of produce.

In addition, the Government of India is also implementing several programmes to promote spice production, including Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichai Yojana (PMKSY), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojana (PMFBY) and others. In addition to these national programs, the Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development (DASD) directly supports spice development through the production of quality planting materials, technology dissemination via demonstrations, and farmer training programs conducted through State Agricultural Universities and national institutes. Further, Spices Board is implementing the central sector scheme, “Sustainability in spice sector through Progressive Innovative and Collaborative interventions for Export Development” (SPICED) with the budgetary support from Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

(c): The details of major export destination of spices, pulses, vegetables and fruits from India are as under:-

Sr. No	Commodity	Top Export Destinations
1	Spices	China, USA, UAE, Bangladesh, Thailand
2	Pulses	Bangladesh, UAE, China, USA, Sri Lanka
3	Fresh Vegetable	Bangladesh, UAE, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka
4	Fresh Fruits	Iraq, UAE, Netherlands, Bangladesh, Nepal

(d): A Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO) - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) has been launched during August, 2021 with the aim to enhance the edible oils availability in the country by harnessing Oil Palm area expansion, increasing Crude Palm Oil production and to reduce the import burden on edible oil. The Mission will bring additional area of 6.5 lakh ha under Oil Palm plantation with a total outlay of Rs. 11,040 crore in next 5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The Union Cabinet has approved the National Mission on Edible Oils — Oilseeds (NMEO-OS) on 3rd October, 2024 to boost domestic oilseed production and to strive toward self-sufficiency in edible oil production in the country. The objective of NMEO-Oilseeds is to enhance the production of key primary oilseed crops such as Rapeseed-Mustard, Groundnut, Soybean, Sunflower, Sesamum, Safflower, Niger, Castor and Linseed, as well

as increasing collection and extraction efficiency from secondary sources like Cottonseed, Rice Bran, Corn oil and Tree Borne Oils. The mission aims to increase primary oilseed production from 39 million tonnes (2022-23) to 69.7 million tonnes by 2030-31.

In order to support the oilseeds farmers of the country, the Government increased the Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on Refined Palm Oil, Refined Sunflower Oil, and Refined Soybean Oil from 12.5% to 32.5% with effect from 14.09.2024. Additionally, the BCD on Crude Palm Oil, Crude Sunflower Oil, and Crude Soybean Oil was revised to 10% with effect from 30.05.2025. These adjustments on the part of the Government are expected to bolster domestic oilseed production and farmers' income.

(e): Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) is implemented for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities, which are perishable in nature and are not covered under the Minimum Support Price regime. The objective of intervention is to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of a bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and the cost of production. The condition is that there should be at least a 10 percent decrease in the ruling market prices over the previous normal year. The scheme is implemented at the request of a State/UT government, which is ready to bear 50 percent of the loss (25 percent in case of North-Eastern States), if any, incurred on its implementation.

Government has introduced a new component of Price Differential Payment (PDP) under Market intervention scheme (MIS) from 2024-25 season for direct payment of the price difference between the Market Intervention Price (MIP) and the selling price to the farmers of perishable crops. States/UTs have an option to choose either to do physical procurement of the crop or to make the differential payment between the MIP & Sale Price to the farmers.

Further, from 2024-25 season, Government added another component under Market Intervention Scheme for reimbursing the Storage (upto 3 months) and Transportation cost of TOP crops (Tomato, Onion and Potato) to NAFED, NCCF & State designated agencies for transporting from the producing state to consuming states in the interest of the farmers.

(f): India's trade policy regarding agricultural imports is aligned with its foreign policy and national interests. Imports from countries that may pose geopolitical or economic challenges are carefully evaluated. The Government has the authority to impose restrictions, safeguard duties or bans on imports to protect domestic agriculture and national interests, as per WTO norms and national laws. Such measures are taken on a case-by-case basis to safeguard India's sovereignty and economic security. The Government remains committed to enhancing agricultural self-reliance, ensuring farmer welfare, strengthening export potential, and safeguarding national interests through appropriate policy measures.
