

**Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2706
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.05.2016**

SHORTAGE OF PULSES

2706. DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE: SHRI RAKESH SINGH: SHRI RAMDAS C.TADAS: SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT: SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE: DR. K. GOPAL: DR. P. VENUGOPAL: ADV. NARENDRA KESHAV SAWAIKAR: SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: SHRI NAGENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN: SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA: SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN: SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: SHRIMATI P. K. SREEMATHI TEACHER: SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM: SHRI R. DHRUVA NARAYANA: SHRI BHEEMRAO B.PATIL: SHRI SANJAY HARIBHAY JADHAV: SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARASTE:

(OIH)

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
मिनिस्टर अफ कन्सुमर अफेयर्स, फूड अंड पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन be pleased to state:

- whether the Government has procured an increased quantity of pulses from the farmers and has also entered into import contracts in view of their shortage and rise in prices;
- if so, the details thereof indicating the quantum of pulses procured and imported during the last one year and the current year;
- whether the Government has taken note of the fact that a huge quantity of imported pulses is stuck at the ports, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the steps taken for its early release in markets;
- whether the Government has requested the States to present their requirement of pulses, if so, the details thereof and response of the States thereto; and
- the details of other steps being taken by the Government to check artificial scarcity and spiraling of prices of pulses?

ANSWER

मिनिस्टर अफ कन्सुमर अफेयर्स, फूड अंड पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन
श्री राम विलस पासवान

**THE MINISTER FOR
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)**

(a) & (b) : Yes, Madam. Domestic procurement of pulses has been undertaken including from farmers. Till now, a total of 50,424.07 MT of Tur and Urad from Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2015-16, and 11,754.06 MT of Chana and Masur from Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2016-17 has already been procured. In addition, imports have been contracted for about 13,500 MT of Tur and 12,500 MT of Urad respectively.

(c) : There has been a strict vigilance by the Government to prevent importers from mis-using the facilities of Customs Bonded Warehouse facility. Domestic searches and surveys have also been conducted on a number of importers, traders and financiers engaged in pulses trade.

(d): Yes, Madam. Till now, request for allocation of pulses from buffer stock has been received from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan.

(e) : The requisite details are at **Annexure**.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2706 FOR 10.05.2016 REGARDING SHORTAGE OF PULSES.

1. Export of all pulses is banned except kabuli channa and up to 10,000 MTs in organic pulses and lentils.
2. Import of pulses are allowed at zero import duty.
3. Stock limit on pulses extended till 30.9.2016.
4. Government imported 5000 MT of Tur from Malawi/Mozambique and allocated it to States for retail sale to consumers to improve availability and to moderate prices.
5. MSP (including bonus) raised for kharif pulses for Tur and Urad and Moong. MSP also raised for Rabi pulses for Gram and Masoor.
6. Government has approved creation of buffer stock of 1.5 lakh MT of pulses for effective market intervention.
7. Government has decided to immediately release 10,000 MT of pulses from the buffer stock (consisting of 8,000 MT of Tur and 2,000 MT of Urad) to States/UTs at subsidized rates for retailing by them at not more than Rs 120/- per kg to improve availability and stabilise prices.
8. Regulatory measures by Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Chana contracts including increase in the margin requirement to discourage speculation and to moderate the price volatility in forward market and close monitoring by SEBI
9. Setting up of a Group of Officers for regular monitoring and exchange of information on hoarding, cartelization etc.
10. Strict enforcement of the Essential Commodities (EC) Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential (PBMMSE) Act, 1980
