

soya oil seeds price due to short-fall in production;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether there is any proposal to import edible oils during the year?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The agriculture year 1994-95 is yet to begin. However, the total production of groundnut and soyaseed (i.e. soyabean) in the country for the

year 1993-94 is expected to be around 76.0 and 47.2 lakh tonnes respectively.

(c) The production of rabi groundnut and soyabean in the country for the year 1993-94 is expected to be higher than that of target as well as earlier forecast made in this regard. However, the production of groundnut in kharif season 1993-94 is likely to fall below the targeted level.

(d) and (e) There has been some increase in the prices of groundnut and soyabean recently as indicated in the table below:—

(Base 1981-82=100)

	Groundnut	Soyabean
February, 1994	227.5	298.1
March, 1994	223.3	297.5
16th April, 1994 (Latest available)	256.2	307.0

(f) The Government has decided to import Palmolein for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS) in order to contain the price rise of edible oils. In order to augment the supplies of edible oils, the Government has also put import of palmolein under Open General Licence (OGL).

Demand for treating agriculture as Industry

***575. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:**

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers are demanding that agriculture be treated as industry;

(b) if so, what are the implications of this demand; and

(c) whether the above demand suggests that land holdings be considered as the capital against which term loans be granted on the lines on which advances are granted to small, middle and big industrialists and that working capital be also granted on the same lines?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR):

(a) and (b) There has been a general demand for treating agriculture at par with industry which would imply extending benefits to agriculture sector as exist in industry.

(c) Yes, Sir.