

(a) whether it is a fact that Australia and Canada have stopped exports of pulses to India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the planning of Government to meet the requirement of pulses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of the (a) above, does not arise.

(c) Government has taken several measures to enhance the availability of pulses in the country as given in the Statement.

#### ***Statement***

#### **(A) Government Measures**

##### **1.1 Ban on export/duty reduction on import/import by PSUs**

- Extended zero duty on import of pulses for another one year up to 31.3.2011.
- Extended the ban on export of pulses (except kabuli chana) for another one year up to 31.3.2011.
- Extended the current dispensation for PSUs to import pulses against reimbursement up to 15% of losses and service charge of 1.2% of cif value up to 30.9.2010.

##### **1.2 Supply of pulses through PDS**

- Extended the scheme for distribution of imported pulses through PDS up to 31.3.2011.

##### **1.3 On Stock Limits**

- Enabled imposition of stock limit orders by State Governments in the case of pulses upto 30.9.2010.

#### **(B) Medium Term Measures :**

In the medium term, Government has taken initiatives such as the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) to improve production and productivity in agriculture.

#### **Inclusion of cotton seed in ECA**

3904. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN:

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has once again included cotton seeds under the Essential Commodities Act (ECA) with a view to regulating the production, quality and distribution of Bt. cotton seed;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Cabinet gave approval for re-inclusion of cotton seed as an essential commodity;
- (d) whether the re-inclusion comes after two years when the seed was removed from ECA; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) Cotton Seed had been deleted from the list of Essential Commodities under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The was done when the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 was amended by the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2006 which came into effect from 12.02.2007.

Subsequently the Government decided to reinclude Cotton Seed as an Essential Commodity in the Schedule to the essential Commodities Act, 1955. Accordingly a Notification No. S.O.3267 (E) dated 22.12.2009 was issued to regulate the production, quality, distribution and other aspects of Cotton Seed. The Notification is valid till 21.06.2010.

#### **Import of pulses from Myanmar**

3905. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

DR. RAM PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India had earlier planned to import three quarter million tonnes of pulses from Myanmar on Government to Government commodity purchase basis which work out much cheaper than other routes;
- (b) whether the deal fell through because of Myanmar insisting on advance non-US dollar cash payment;
- (c) whether India was keen on using the balance of trade route, since advance cash payment violated Government to Government deal terms; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As per the Agreed Minutes, about one million tonnes of pulses were to be imported. Subsequently 30,000 tonnes of black matpe and 7,000 tonnes of green moong were contracted to be imported. However, only about 5,000 tonnes of black matpe, was imported.

(b) The main issue was their request for making payment prior to the fixation of price and quantity of pulses imported. Government decided not to proceed further on account of procedural complexities.

(c) and (d) Pulses were already being imported by the PSUs and private traders at zero duty under OGL.