

- (b) the countries from where the import has been made; and
- (c) whether the price of import has been higher than their minimum support price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) During April-December 2012, about 2.9 million MT of pulses were imported, out of which the share of chickpeas (gram), yellow peas and arhar was about 0.36 million MT, 1.15 million MT and 0.43 million respectively.

(b) Imports were made from countries such as Australia, Canada, Myanmar, Tanzania, Mozambique etc.

(c) Prices of pulses tend to fluctuate in the international market as production is limited and sources are few. Further they tend to vary depending on the quality of pulse. Therefore, there is no uniform import price on the basis of which a comparison can be drawn with the minimum support price.

Extension of 2 per cent subsidy period to export activities

2487. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has a proposal to extend the 2 per cent subsidy period to export activities;
- (b) if so, the details of the commodities that fall under this proposal; and
- (c) the reasons for provision of subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) In order to partially offset the high cost of credit for the exporters, 2% Interest subvention scheme was introduced. prior to June, 2012, the scheme was available to Handlooms, Handicrafts, SMEs and carpets sectors. In June 2012, it had been extended to labour intensive sectors, namely, Toys, sports goods, processed agricultural products, and readymade garments, in addition to the four sectors benefitting from the scheme earlier. Further, the scheme has been widened to include 134 sub-sectors of Engineering sector *w.e.f.* 1st January, 2013.