

has also been reduced to 33% crop loss in line with the National Disaster Management Framework.

Further the Government undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy under its 'MSP operations'. In addition, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Minimum Price Support Scheme on the request of State/UT Government. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production.

Import of refined edible oil

545. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether refined edible oil is being imported in the country in large quantity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the quantity of crude and refined edible oil imported during the last two years;
- (c) whether domestic refining companies are suffering heavy losses because of increasing import of refined edible oil, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government proposes to increase the import duty of refined edible oil and introduce other measures to support domestic industry; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The quantity of refined edible oils imported in the country is quite less as compared to quantity of crude edible oil imported. The details of crude and refined edible oil imported during last two years are tabled below:

(Quantity in lakh tonnes)

Year (Apr.-Mar.)	Crude Edible Oil	Refined Edible Oil	Total
2014-15	115.34	11.97	127.37
2015-16*	130.48	25.91	156.36

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS).

*Figures are provisional.

(c) Data relating to losses by domestic refining companies on this account is not maintained. However, imposition of export tax on the crude edible oil by certain exporting countries has resulted in additional burden on domestic refining companies.

(d) and (e) At present there is no proposal to increase the import duty of refined edible oils. Import duty on edible oils is reviewed from time to time keeping in mind the interest of oilseed farmers, consumers and the domestic edible oil industry. As per our export-import policy, import duty on refined oils is always kept higher than the duty on crude oils. The current the import duty on crude edible oils is 12.5% while import duty on refined edible oil is 20%

Improper use of pesticides and insecticides

546. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made by Government regarding losses incurred due to improper use of pesticides and insecticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last two years, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government proposes to formulate any scheme to educate farmers about judicious use of pesticides and insecticides, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) under the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare conduct Farmers Field Schools to sensitize farmers regarding safe and judicious use of pesticides, use of bio-pesticides etc. A 'Grow Safe Food' campaign has also been initiated carrying the message of safe and judicious use of pesticides to farmers and other stakeholders. Package of practices for control of pests and diseases in 79 crops have been revised to include technique to reduce dependence on chemical pesticides and encourage use of bio-pesticides and other alternative plant protection measures.

Production of pulses

547. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of pulses in the country, during the last two years, year-wise;

(b) the details of consumption deficit of pulses; and

(c) the action taken by Government to increase the production of pulses in the country to meet their demand?