

**Import of pulses from Mozambique**

1361. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether to increase production of pulses, Government has earmarked ₹ 1100 crore in 2016-17 towards its share of a total of ₹ 1700 crore allocated under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) scheme;

(b) whether Government has also firmed up plans to import around 1 lakh tonnes of Tur and other pulses from Mozambique in the current year 2016-17 to meet the shortfall in domestic production;

(c) whether such imports from Mozambique will be through Government to Government channels or through private traders; and

(d) whether any MoU has been signed with Mozambique in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Government of India has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government of Republic of Mozambique and designated Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India (MMTC) Limited as agency for import of pulses from Mozambique.

**Protection of arecanut growing farmers**

1362. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of arecanut in the country during last three years and the current year, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether crash in the arecanut price has come to the notice of Government;

(c) if so, the reasons for the crash in price; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken to safeguard arecanut growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The details of the production of arecanut in the country during the last three years and current year, State/UT wise are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) The prices of Arecanut have been stable during the year 2015-16. However, in the past few months, there has been a marginal decrease in Arecanut price. This may be due to slight increase in arrivals of Arecanut in major markets centres like Sirsi, Sagar in the year 2015-16.

(d) The Government of India has been taking several measures to curb the excessive import of Arecanut in to the country which might affect domestic market prices. Some of these are as under:-

- The import of Arecanut in the country is restricted through imposing an import duty of 100%.
- A Minimum Price for Import (MIP) of Arecanut is also fixed for restricting the unabated import. In June 2015, Government has increased the MIP from ₹ 110/kg to ₹ 162/kg to safeguard the interest of domestic farmers, which is applicable to import from SAARC Countries also.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has advised its field offices to stringently adhere to the quality standards of arecanut before clearing the import consignments.
- The Bureau of Indian Standards has been asked to formulate standards for Arecanut. This has been done with a view to prevent inferior quality Arecanut from entering Indian market and destabilizing the domestic prices.
- Customs authorities have been advised to check the rules of origin with utmost care so as to ensure that Arecanut grown in countries other than SAARC is not imported through our neighboring countries taking advantage of low import duty under SAFTA.

***Statement***

*Details of State-wise Production of Arecanut Crop in the country*

(Production in '000 MT)

States/UTs	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 (Provisional)
1	2	3	4	5
Andaman Nicobar and Islands	5.88	5.88	5.88	5.88

1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	0.27	0.26	0.34	1.80
Assam	72.58	74.04	74.04	74.78
Goa	2.87	2.90	2.90	2.90
Karnataka	358.61	348.77	457.56	436.29
Kerala	96.30	113.36	125.93	102.20
Maharashtra	3.58	3.58	3.58	3.48
Meghalaya	19.83	24.68	24.68	25.73
Mizoram	4.32	4.32	7.27	7.27
Nagaland	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12
Puducherry	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08
Tamil Nadu	13.20	13.20	13.20	9.79
Tripura	9.92	9.92	9.92	9.92
West Bengal	21.16	21.16	21.16	22.66
TOTAL	608.72	622.27	746.66	702.90

Source: Horticulture Statistics Division, DAC&FW

### Special bonus for yield of cotton and soyabean in Maharashtra

1363. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Maharashtra has announced special bonus for the yield of cotton and soyabean in the State, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government proposes to provide Central grants to Maharashtra to supplement its efforts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Government of Maharashtra has informed that they have not announced any special bonus for cotton and soyabean in the State.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.