

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):

(a) No, Sir. Presently India is not negotiating a Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with USA.

(b) to (d) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Buying of Palm Oil from Malaysia

708. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has advised India's top vegetable oil trade body to stop buying Palm Oil from Malaysia;

(b) if so, details thereof and its impact on domestic oil supply; and

(c) the steps taken to improve production and domestic availability of vegetable oil to avoid further import of Palm Oil, Soya Oil, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):

(a) and (b) Directorate General of Foreign Trade has issued a Notification No. 39/2015-2020 dated 8th January, 2020 amending the import policy of Refined Palm Oil (HS 15119010), Refined Palmolein (HS 15119020) and Other (HS 15119090) from 'Free' to 'Restricted'. This notification is applicable on import from all countries.

(c) Country needs 25 million tonnes of edible oils to meet its requirement at current consumption level of 19 kg. per person per year. Out of the total requirement, 10.50 million tonnes is produced domestically from primary (Soybean, Rapeseed and Mustard, Groundnut, Sunflower, Safflower and Niger) and secondary sources (Oil palm, Coconut, Rice Bran, Cotton seeds and Tree Borne Oilseeds) and remaining 60%, is met through import. The oilseed production of the country has been growing impressively. Despite this, there exists a gap between the demand and supply of oilseeds, which has necessitated sizeable quantities of imports.

The major challenges in oilseed production is largely rainfed conditions (70% area), high seed cost (Groundnut and Soybean), small holding with limited resources, low seed replacement rate and low productivity.

To increase domestic availability and reduce import dependency, a National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO) is proposed for next five years (2020-21 to 2024-25). NMEO covering three Sub-Missions to increase production of oilseeds and edible oils from (i) Primary Sources (Annual Crops, Plantation Crops and Edible TBOs), (ii) Secondary Sources (Rice bran oil and Cotton seed oil) and (iii) Consumer Awareness for maintaining edible oil consumption constant at 19.00 kg. per person per annum. The proposed fission will aim to increase production from 30.88 to 47.80 million tonnes of oilseeds which will produce 7.00 to 11.00 million tonnes of edible oils from Primary Sources by 2024-25. Similarly edible oils from secondary sources will be doubled from 3.50 to 7.00 million tonnes.

The following action points will be initiated for increasing production and productivity of oilseeds and promotion of secondary sources of edible oils:—

- Increasing seed replacement rate and varietal replacement rate.
- Promotion of oilseed in rice fallow/potato areas.
- Promotion of oilseeds through intercropping.
- Extending oilseed cultivation in nontraditional area.
- Targeting 100 low productivity districts.
- Crop diversification in different regions.
- Promotion of community based oil extraction unit.
- Value addition and promotion of export.
- Promotion of rice bran and cotton seed oil.
- Consumer awareness for judicious consumption of oils for good health.
- The above strategies will deliberate the following output by the end of 2024-25.
- Oilseed production will be increased from 30.88 to 47.80 million tonnes.
- Productivity will be increase from 1263 to 1587 kg per ha.
- Reduction in import dependence from 60% to 45%.
- Edible oil production will be 18.00 million tonne from 10.50 million tonnes.