

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri Vaiko: Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri Ramji (Uttar Pradesh), Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha (Bihar), Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala), Shri Tiruchi Siva (Tamil Nadu), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala) and Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu).

Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar — ‘Demand for Increase in Wheat Allocation to the State of Tamil Nadu’.

Demand to increase wheat allocation to the State of Tamil Nadu

SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of the House the urgent need to address the issue of wheat shortage in Tamil Nadu. Under the leadership of hon. Chief Minister, *Thalapathy*, the breakfast scheme is being successfully implemented in the schools of Tamil Nadu so as to improve nutrition and attendance. The current allocation of wheat under the National Food Security Act is only 8,576.02 metric tons, whereas the consumption of wheat in the State has increased to 23,000 metric tons per month.

Sir, as Tamil Nadu is not a wheat producing State, it depends on supplies from the Food Corporation of India. I request the hon. Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to arrange for an increase in the allocation of wheat to 23,000 metric tons per month. If this is not possible under the NFSA, I request the Minister to consider supplying 15,000 tons of wheat under the open market sales scheme. This increase in allocation will not only meet the growing demand for wheat in Tamil Nadu, but also ensure that the people of the State have access to this essential commodity at an affordable price. I urge upon the hon. Minister to take immediate action in this regard. Sir, the Union Government should be a mother bird, which should treat each State with equal respect and address their concerns through equitable governance. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar (Tamil Nadu): Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri A. A. Rahim

(Kerala), Shri N.R. Elango (Tamil Nadu), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu) and Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu).

Shri A.D. Singh — ‘Demand for Imposing Custom Duty on Soybean Oil Imported from Nepal and Other Southeast Asian Countries.’

**Demand to impose custom duty on Soybean Oil imported from Nepal and other
Southeast Asian countries**

SHRI A.D. SINGH (Bihar): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, a steep surge in the import of soyabean oil from Nepal is adversely affecting Indian farmers. During the financial year 2024-25, the import of soyabean oil from Nepal has increased more than 14-fold as compared to the previous financial year. The surge in soyabean oil import was from US\$2.81 million in 2023 to US\$ 38.15 million in 2024. This is more so when Nepal is only a marginal producer of soyabean oil. It so happened that the custom duty on soyabean oil import was 13.75 per cent before September, 2024 and in September, 2024, the basic custom duty on soyabean oil was raised by 20 per cent to protect Indian oilseed farmers. Now, soyabean oil attracts a duty as high as 35.75 per cent. However, under the Nepal-India Treaty of Trade, 2009, Nepal enjoys zero duty access for export of its products into India. This steep rise in the duty in September last year is the main reason why the import of soyabean oil from Nepal skyrocketed November, 2024 onwards. The significant price gap has incentivised the traders to re-route soyabean oil through Nepal for duty-free access to the Indian market. Surprisingly, during the last financial year, the import of soyabean oil from Brazil, which is the main supplier of soyabean oil, was reduced more than US\$ 300 million. Also, China, one of the largest exporters of soyabean oil, does not export to India directly. This steep increase in import has triggered some concerns in the country as the import of soyabean oil is seriously hurting domestic refiners and farmers and causing revenue loss to the Government. Experts feel that the import surge could be a result of the possible flouting of rules of origin and bypassing trade regulations.

In view of the above, it is urged that the Government should impose a minimum import duty on soyabean oil imported from Nepal and other Southeast Asian countries, ensuring that it is not lower than the price of domestically produced oil extracted from oilseeds as per the country's Minimum Support Price. I would also request the Government to review the Nepal-India Treaty and other agreements so that the interests of oilseeds producing Indian farmers could be protected.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri A. D Singh : Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil