

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:104
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2006
IMPORT OF CEREALS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has to import large quantity of cereals from other countries to increase the net availability of cereals in the country;
- (b) if so, whether reduction in per capita pulse availability may adversely affect protein intake;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures are being taken by the Government to increase the production of pulse consistent with the needs of a growing population?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a): No, Sir. The country is a net exporter of cereals. The position of imports and exports of cereals during 2003-04 and 2004-05 is given below:

(000 tonnes)

Year	Imports	Exports	Net Exports
2003-04	2.53	4021.30	4018.77
2004-05	8.13	7923.30	7915.17

(b)&(c): During 2003, the per capita net availability of pulses was 29.1 grams per day which increased to 35.9 grams per day in 2004. To meet the gap between demand and supply, imports of pulses is resorted to. During 2003-04 and 2004-05, 1723.33 thousand tones and 1296.46 thousand tones of pulses were imported, respectively.

(d): Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored `Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize` (ISOPOM) in 14 major pulses growing states with a view to increase the production and productivity of pulses. Under the scheme assistance is provided to farmers for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, plant protection chemicals and equipments, weedicides, supply of rhizobium culture/phosphate solubilising bacteria, distribution of gypsum/pyrite/liming/dolomite, sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, to encourage farmers to grow pulses on a large scale.