

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1035

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2006

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS AND PULSES

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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to import foodgrains due to stagnation in production of foodgrains especially pulses in the country;
- (b) if so, the details including the quantity and the rate at which wheat, sugar, pulses and rice foodgrains/pulses are being imported, country-wise;
- (c) whether the imports of these commodities has arrested their price rise especially price of pulses;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the measures adopted to ensure the quality of the imported foodgrains; and
- (f) the steps taken to boost production of foodgrains especially pulses in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(b): Decision to import wheat by Government was taken on account of low level of stocks in the Central Pool, high ruling open market prices and due to low levels of production and procurement. Import of pulses is free. Domestic production of pulses remains inadequate as compared to the demand in the country.

(c):The details are annexed.

(c)&(d):The monthly whole sale price index for food grains [cereals + pulses] for the year 2006 is as follows:

Month/	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Year								
2006	192.7	194.4	194.8	194.5	196.7	198.4	198.8	201

(e) All imports of food / edible products in India are subject to compliance to the provisions under Prevention of food Adulteration Act, 1954. Further, the imported wheat is being scrupulously subjected to sampling and analysis by the PFA Authorities of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and through approved laboratories and being cleared only on conforming to the laid down standards. Similarly, the imported wheat is being subjected to strict Plant Protection and quarantine (PPQ) checks by the Ministry of Agriculture, before being cleared by FCI.

(f) A Centrally Sponsored Integrated scheme of Pulses, Oilseeds, Oil Palm and Maize

(ISOPOM) is under implementation to increase productivity and production of pulses.