

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:109  
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2007  
IMPORT OF EDIBLE OILS AND OILSEEDS  
Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the quantum and value to edible and oilseeds imported during the last year and the current year;
- (b) whether the farmers have produced a bumper crop of rapeseed during the current year;
- (c) if so, whether the Government agencies are procuring only a small portion of this produce;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether a low import price for oilseeds is expected during the ensuing season; and
- (f) if so, the steps being taken to protect the interest of the farmers of the country?

**Answer**

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

(a): As per the data of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), the total quantity of edible oils and oilseeds imported during 2005-06 was 42.88 lakh Metric Tonnes (MTs) and 0.36 lakh MTs respectively. The corresponding value of imports was Rs.8960.99 crores and Rs.54.60 crores respectively. During 2006-07 (April-September) the total quantity of edible oils imported was Rs.21.58 Lakh MTs corresponding to a value of Rs. 4798.5 crores. For the period April 2006 to June 2006 the total quantity of oilseeds imported was 0.065 Lakh MTs corresponding to a value of Rs.10.15 crores.

(b): As per the Second advance estimate of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, the production of rapeseed and mustard has been assessed at 75.68 lakh tonnes which is less than the final estimate of production for the year 2005-06.

(c) to (f): Procurement of rape/mustard seed by the Government agencies is arranged under the price support scheme at the minimum support price declared by the Government for fair average quality stocks as and when the prices in the open market rule below the minimum support price. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India limited (NAFED), a Central Nodal Agency had procured 22.05 lakh tonnes of rapeseed/mustard during Rabi 2006 under the Scheme.

It is difficult to make any assessment about the import price of oilseeds expected during the ensuing season. Government is, however, committed to protect the interest of the farmers of the country through a series of initiatives and interventions like declaration of Minimum Support Price for improving production and productivity of oilseeds.