

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:851

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2007

REMOVAL OF BAN ON EXPORT/ IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution in consultation with Ministry of Agriculture is planning to lift the ban imposed on export and import of foodgrains simultaneously to augment domestic supplies as reported in the Times of India dated February 21, 2007;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether certain essential commodities are exported at lower prices than that of its import prices;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial steps taken by the Government to meet the shortage of essential commodities?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): Export of wheat and rice from Central Pool stocks have been discontinued since 01.10.2004. Private export of wheat under Open General License (OGL) has been banned up to 31.12.2007. However, there is no ban on export of rice under OGL. Further, export of pulses have been banned w.e.f. 22nd June, 2006. There is no proposal to lift the above bans.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): No, Sir. Government does not undertake export/import of any essential commodity, simultaneously. However, depending upon the situation, decision to either import or export the essential commodity, is taken.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): Some of the important remedial steps are as under:-

(i) State Trading Corporation (STC) contracted for import of 55 lakh tonnes of wheat to augment domestic availability.

(ii) Ban has been imposed on export of wheat, pulses and skimmed milk powder.

(iii) Private trade has been allowed to import wheat and pulses at zero duty.

(iv) Reduction in import duty on edible oils.

(v) Government had issued a Central Order under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to enable the State Governments to invoke stock limits in respect of wheat and pulses.

(vi) Decision to release upto 4 lakh tonnes of wheat under Open Market Sale Scheme in February and March 2007.