

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 5776

ANSWERED ON: 03.04.2018

Demand and Supply of Pulses

Shrirang Appa Barne

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

- (a) whether there is shortage of pulses in the country as the production of pulses continues to be lower than the estimated demand and if so, the annual estimated demand of pulses and the extent to which the production is falling short of the demand;
- (b) whether the Government has hired a consultant to advise it on engaging a professional agency for efficient management of buffer stock of pulses that is being created for use in times of price rise and if so, the reasons for engaging private consultant;
- (c) whether the Government has fixed a target of 20 lakh tonnes buffer stock of pulses and if so, the details of the buffer stock of pulses built so far; and
- (d) whether the Government has imported pulses to create buffer stock and if so, the price difference between imported pulses and purchase from the domestic growers, pulse-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

- (a) : As per the 2nd Advance Estimates, 2017-18 released by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, the estimated production of pulses is 23.95 million tonnes in 2017-18. As per the Report of Working of the erstwhile Planning Commission Group on Food grains - Balancing Demand & Supply During 12th Five Years Plan, the average annual estimated demand of pulses in the country was 24.61 million tonnes in 2016-17. Any mismatch between demand and supply is met through imports.
- (b) : PwC was selected and engaged through an open tender process, in which participation by all interested and eligible agencies, whether Government or Private, was permitted.
- (c) & (d) : Government approved creation of a dynamic buffer of upto 20 lakh MT of pulses. As on 26.03.2018, 13.29 lakh is available in the buffer after disposal of 7.21 lakh MT from the total stock of 20.50 lakh MT, of which 16.71 lakh tonnes was procured domestically and 3.79 lakh MT was imported.

The decision of the Government to import pulses towards building buffer stock was guided by domestic price and availability position, and import contracts were generally accepted when the then prevailing domestic prices of pulses were higher than the landed cost of the imported pulses.

However, in view of the bumper production of pulses, no further import has been contracted by the Government after November, 2016.
