

Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1487
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2020

IMPORT AND EXPORT OF ONIONS

1487. SHRI KUMBAKUDI SUDHAKARAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to import onions through private trade from Afghanistan, Egypt and Turkey, if so, the details thereof along with the estimated cost of the potential deal;
- (b) whether the Union Government consulted representatives from the farmer community before imposing a ban on the export of their produce, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the prices of onion soared as a result of decline in yield and if so, whether the Union Government has any plan to compensate the farmers who are likely to be negatively affected by the export ban?

ANSWER

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री
(श्री दानवे रावसाहेब दादाराव)

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO)

(a) : No Sir.

(b) : Government of India takes measures like incentivizing export of onions under Merchandise Export Incentive Scheme (MEIS); restricting export through Minimum Export Price (MEP); or, banning the export; depending on the exigencies so as to optimally address the concern of all stakeholders.

(c) : During 2019-20, due to late arrival of monsoon there was delay in sowing as well as decline in sown area of the Kharif onion. Further, untimely prolonged rains in the major growing States of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh during the harvesting period, i.e., September / October, caused damage to the standing crops in these regions adversely impacting their production and quality. The rains during September/October also affected plucking and transportation of the crop from these regions to consuming areas. This led to limited availability of Kharif onion in the market and put pressure on its prices. The prevailing prices were remunerative for farmers of onions.
