

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 539**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020**

**RELEASING OF FOOD SHIPMENT**

539. DR. T. SUMATHY (a) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any interest in releasing of millions of tonnes of food grains, pulses, peas found stocked at various sea ports in the country pending any departmental action by the DGFT;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the status of food grains, pulses, peas stocked at various sea ports of the country, Port-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to notify and direct the concerned authorities at the respective sea ports to release the huge quantities of food grains, pulses, peas stocked there and to ensure that they reach the hands of the poor through public distribution system before they perish by rotting; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ( श्री पीयूष गोयल )  
THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

- (a) to (d): Due to significant enhancement in the domestic production of pulses, the Government of India, in order to protect the interests of farmers, notified restrictions, with quota, on import of peas and pulses. These Notifications were challenged in various High Courts. Based on ex-parte stay orders against the operations of these Notifications, certain importers brought in quantities of pulses in excess of the quota for the years 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20. The Government contested the cases before various High Courts and in order to obtain a common judgment, sought transfer of all cases filed before the various High Courts to the Supreme Court. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Judgment dated 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 has upheld the notifications and the trade notices and has rejected the challenge made by the importers and

further directed that the imports, if any, made relying on interim order(s) would be held to be contrary to the notifications.

The Peas and Pulses stocked at various sea ports have been imported by private importers in violation of the Foreign Trade Policy and notifications issued thereunder. Such imports by these private importers were not for supply to the Public Distribution System.

As regards food grains, Government has not imposed any restrictions on their import.

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