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## India imports 50.8 lakh ton pulses for Rs 17,280 crore in April-December

PTI | Feb 06, 2018, 08:59 PM IST

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India has imported 50.8 lakh tonnes of pulses for Rs 17,280 crore during April-December period of this fiscal, the government today said.

Pulses output increased sharply to an all-time high of 22.95 million tonnes in 2016-17 crop year (July-June) from 16.35 million tonnes in the previous year, as per the agriculture ministry data.

As per data submitted by the minister, pulses import stood at 50.8 lakh tonnes valuing Rs 17,280 crore during April-December period of 2017-18 fiscal.

"India imports pulses and edible oils to meet the gap between domestic production and

demand. Pulses and edible oils in India are imported by private sector and not by the government," Minister of State for Agriculture [Gajendra Singh Shekhawat](#) said in a written reply to [Lok Sabha](#).

He said the production of pulses has increased from 17.15 lakh tonnes in 2014-15 to 22.95 million tonnes in 2016-17.

As per data submitted by the minister, pulses import stood at 50.8 lakh tonnes valuing Rs 17,280 crore during April-December period of 2017-18 fiscal.

During 2016-17 fiscal, 66.08 million tonnes worth Rs 28,523 crore pulses were imported, while imports stood at 57.97 lakh tonnes worth Rs 25,619 crore in 2015-16 and 45.8 lakh tonnes worth Rs 17,062 crore in 2014-15.



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Shekhawat said 3.79 lakh tonnes of pulses were imported by the government in 2015-16 to create buffer stock when the availability of commodity was less and domestic prices

to create buffer stock when the availability of commodity was less and domestic prices were high.

In case of edible oils, imports stood at 11.8 lakh tonnes for Rs 58,143 crore during April-December period of 2017-18.

Imports of cooking oils stood at 14.01 million tonnes worth Rs 73,047 crore in the entire 2016-17 financial year.



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# Google workers walk out to protest office harassment, inequality

Reuters | Nov 01, 2018, 06:45 PM IST

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Over 1,000 Google employees and contractors in Asia and Europe staged brief midday walkouts on Thursday, with more expected to follow at offices worldwide, amid complaints of **sexism**, **racism** and unchecked executive power in their workplace.

In a statement late on Wednesday, the organizers called on Google parent Alphabet Inc to add an employee representative to its board of directors and internally share **pay-equity** data. They also asked for changes to Google's human resources practices intended to make bringing harassment claims a fairer

Google has been known around the world for its exceptional transparency with workers. Executives' goals and insights into corporate strategy have been accessible to any employee.

process.

Google Chief Executive **Sundar Pichai** said in a statement that "employees have raised constructive ideas" and that the company was "taking in all their feedback so we can turn these ideas into action."

Hundreds of workers filed out of its European headquarters in Dublin shortly after 1100 local time, while organisers shared photographs on social media of hundreds more leaving Google offices in London, Zurich, Berlin, Tokyo and Singapore.

"I haven't experienced harassment myself, but if even one person has experienced it it's important for us, for me, to show our solidarity," said Kate, one of the workers who organised the walkout in Dublin, where Google employs 7,000 people, its largest facility

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organised the walkout in Dublin, where Google employs 7,000 people, its largest facility outside the United States. She declined to give her surname.

Irish employees left a note on their desk that read: "I'm not at my desk because I'm walking out with other Googlers and contractors to protest sexual harassment, misconduct, lack of transparency, and a workplace culture that's not working for everyone," national broadcaster RTE reported.

The dissatisfaction among Alphabet's 94,000 employees and tens of thousands more contractors has not noticeably affected company shares. But employees expect Alphabet to face recruiting and retention challenges if their concerns go unaddressed.

The demonstrations follow a New York Times report last week that said Google in 2014 gave a \$90 million exit package to Andy Rubin after the then-senior vice president was accused of sexual harassment.

Rubin denied the allegation in the story, which he also said contained "wild exaggerations" about his compensation. Google did not dispute the report.

The report energized a months-long movement inside Google to increase diversity, improve treatment of women and minorities and ensure the company upholds its motto of "don't be evil" as it expands.

Much of the organizing earlier this year was internal, including petition drives, brainstorming sessions with top executives and training from the workers' rights group Coworker.org.

Since its founding two decades ago, Google has been known around the world for its exceptional transparency with workers. Executives' goals and insights into corporate strategy have been accessible to any employee.

But organizers said Google executives, like leaders at other companies affected by the #metoo movement, have been slow to address some structural issues.

"While Google has championed the language of diversity and inclusion, substantive actions to address systemic racism, increase equity, and stop sexual harassment have been few and far between," organizers stated.

They said Google must publicly report its sexual harassment statistics and end forced arbitration in harassment cases. In addition, they asked that the chief diversity officer be able to directly advise the board.

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