

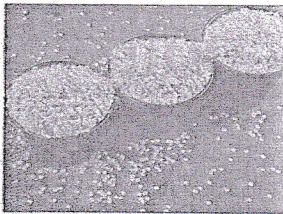
# Duty-free imports of yellow peas may weaken local prices

SANDIP DAS  
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**TRADERS AND PROCESSORS** fear that the government's decision to allow duty-free import of yellow peas — a cheaper substitute for chana — until the end of FY26 will depress domestic prices and force farmers to switch to more remunerative crops.

They warned that the continued dumping of cheap imported yellow peas would keep mandi prices low and discourage farmers from growing chana, which accounts for about 50% of the country's pulses production.

"We have urged the government several times to impose at least 50% import duties on yellow peas so that domestic mandi prices remain stable and farmers are incentivised,"



Around 1 MT of the pulses variety is said to be currently with importers

Satish Upadhyay, secretary, India Pulses and Grains Association, told *FE*.

Currently, mandi prices of chana (chickpeas) in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, two key producing states, are ruling in the range of ₹5200/quintal — ₹5500/quintal against the minimum support price (MSP) of ₹5650/quintal for the 2024-25 season.

The pulse variety, which is

currently being imported from Russia and Canada at around \$ 360/tonne or around ₹3400/quintal, is being widely used as 'besan' (chickpea flour) for making snacks. Over 3.5 MT of yellow peas have been imported since December 2023. Trade sources said currently around 1 MT of the pulse variety are with importers while domestic production is around 0.45 MT, which would be sufficient to meet domestic demand.

Duty-free imports were allowed as the government wanted to improve domestic supplies of chana, due to a decline in production in the 2023-24 crop year (July-June) to 11 MT from 12.26 MT in the 2022-23 crop year. The agriculture ministry, has stated chana output at 11.33 MT in the 2024-25 crop year.