

BJD seeks shield against contaminated pulses

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New Delhi: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Bhartruhari Mahtab Monday sought strict import policy to protect citizens of the country from contaminated pulses which are being imported from other countries.

While speaking in the Lok Sabha, the BJD Parliamentary Party leader in the Lower House said, "India has traditionally been the biggest producer and consumer of pulses. But in recent times, it has also become a huge importer of pulses. There are certain reports of high level of glyphosate in imported pulses. It is known to be highly toxic and harmful for human health. It can adversely impact immunity to several serious diseases and the absorption of mineral and vitamin nutrients, apart from disrupting protein-related functions."

The Cuttack MP further said that the quantity of imported yellow peas is higher than any other imported pulse. Yellow peas alone account for annual imports of about three million tonnes. "It is commonly consumed by workers and others in low-income groups. It is also a very common street food. Many workers eat it almost every day. The health hazard posed by glyphosate-contaminated matar in the case of such regular consumers can well be imagined. It is important to be careful about the health impact of imported pulses. Developed countries are known to be quite strict in protecting the health interests of their citizens while regulating and approving imports. It is time now that developing countries too are equally concerned and careful about the health concerns of their citizens," Mahtab said.

Mahtab urged the government to take necessary steps in this regard. Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister Ram Vilas Paswan assured that the government will look into the matter and take necessary steps.

Tags: Bhartruhari Mahtab contaminated pulses Cuttack MP Ram Vilas Paswan

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