

MORE PEOPLE CONSUME WHEAT FLOUR: MINISTER

By KELUM BANDARA AND YOHAN PERERA

Wheat flour consumption per person had increased from seven kilos during the 2006/2007 period to eight kilos during the 2009/2010 period, Parliament was informed yesterday.

According to findings by the Department of Census and Statistics, the country had spent Rs.29 bil-



IN PARLIAMENT
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lion last year for the import of wheat grain to be milled in the country; an increase against Rs. 21 billion spent the previous year. Internal Trade Minis-

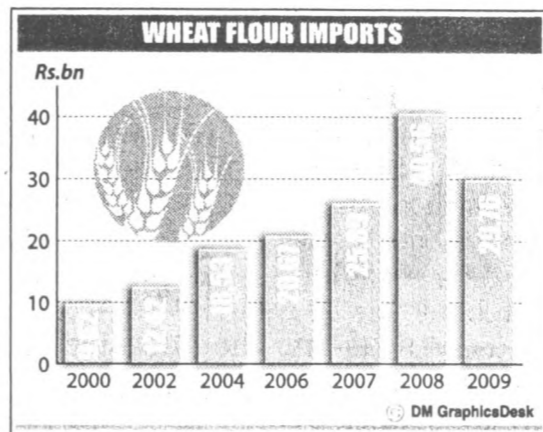
ter Johnston Fernando gave these details to the House in response to a question by UNP MP Ravi Karunanayake.

The Minister said the wheat flour production was done by the private sector only, and therefore the actual cost of production could not be reported.

The UNP MP asked as to why the government was not banning wheat imports to the country if

they were so nationalistic about the promotion of local agriculture.

The Minister replied that the government had imposed high taxes to discourage wheat flour consumption.



R.V.