

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1493

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2000

IMPORT OF COTTON FROM PAKISTAN .

A. VENKATESH NAIK;ALE NARENDRA;PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY;RAGHUNATH JHA;SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the cotton bales imported from different countries during the last three years, quantity-wise and country-wise;
- (b) whether the Government have imposed ban on the import of cotton from Pakistan;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government have decided to increase import duties on cotton bales from Pakistan, China and other countries;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether this resulted the less quantum of import of cotton; and (g) if so, the alternate ways proposed to be adopted to meet the growing requirement of cotton?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES

(SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a): During the cotton years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 import of cotton was 0.30 lakh bales, 4.13 lakh bales and 7.87 lakh bales respectively. The major countries from which cotton is imported into India are Australia, Egypt, South Africa, U.S.A.etc.

(b)&(c):The Government have imposed ban on import of cotton from Pakistan as a phyto-sanitary measure because of the presence of cotton seeds of exotic origin, of dried leaves and their stalks carrying exotic strains of destructive bacterial, viral and fungal diseases which are virulent under Indian climatic conditions.

(d)to (g): From the current year`s budget an import duty of 5%(with 10% surcharge) has been imposed. This will be applicable to imports from all countries. During April-November,1999 , import of cotton (including cotton waste) is 1,20,858 tons as against 63,340 tons during April-November,1998. Thus, the import has increased this year. In deciding on quantum of importing cotton, duty is only one of the considerations others being quality, credit facilities etc.