

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1701  
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2003  
IMPORT OF WHEAT FROM BULGARIA  
TRILOCHAN KANUNGO

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a substantial quantity of wheat has been imported from Bulgaria in any of the years in between 1997-98 and 2002-03;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) the imported price of wheat inclusive of custom tariff per quintal vis-À-vis the price of our indigenous wheat in that particular year;
- (d) whether the Government have assessed the demands of goods for exports to Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary; and
- (e) if so, the efforts made during the last three years to augment exports to these countries alongwith the results thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : A total quantity of 2.37 lakh MT of wheat valued at Rs.137.20 crores has been imported from Bulgaria during the year 1999-2000 due to requirement in the country.

(c): It is not possible to compare the imported price of wheat and the price of indigenous wheat in 1999-2000, the two being a function of various factors, including varieties traded.

(d): No Sir, However, the main items of exports to Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary are inter-alia textiles, cotton yarn, fabrics, made ups, agricultural products, drugs and pharmaceuticals, manufactures of metals, tobacco unmanufactured, and machinery and instruments.

(e): Some of the steps taken to augment the level of trade with these countries include providing prompt information and assistance to Indian as well as European companies; disseminating trade related information through apex trade and industry organisations, Export Promotion Councils and other relevant bodies; exchange of business delegations; encouraging Indian companies to participate in major trade fairs in the Central & East European countries and vice versa; organising business seminars; organising meeting of the Commercial Representatives of the Central and East European countries and discussing ways and means to further increase bilateral trade during the Joint Commission Meetings and other high level interactions/meetings/visits. As a result of these steps, the overall trade with these countries has increased.