

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3552

ANSWERED ON:20.08.2004

SODA ASH INDUSTRY

Kanodia Shri Mahesh Kumar;Thakkar Smt. Jayaben B.

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

- (a) whether Government are aware that cheap import of Soda Ash from America Natural Soda Ash Corporation is hurting the domestic soda ash industry;
- (b) whether Government has received a proposal to maintain import duty on soda ash with a view to protect domestic soda ash industry; and
- (c) if so, action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ( SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

(a) to (c) The Directorate of Anti Dumping & Allied Duties has so far not received any application alleging dumping of Soda Ash from America Natural Soda Ash Corporation. Customs duty on Soda Ash was reduced from 35% to 20% during the Budget of 2001-2002. Since then there has been no reduction in import duty except for abolition of SAD in January,2004 . A comparison of the landed price with domestic price, import volumes and indigenous production shows that even with customs duty of 20% , the landed price (at Mumbai) is still marginally higher than the domestic ex-factory price. The domestic production of Soda Ash has also gone up while there has been no upsurge in imports of Soda Ash.