

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1949
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2005
IMPORT OF FOOD ITEMS
Bishnoi Shri Jaswant Singh

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

- (a) the details of food items imported during 2004-05 and thereafter, country-wise;
- (b) whether farmers in the country are suffering due to import of these items; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to reduce the import of food items?

Answer

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

(a): Country-wise details of food items imported may be seen in the publications `Monthly statistics of Foreign Trade of India Vol. II(Imports)-Annual Number` published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics which is available in the Parliament Library.

(b)&(c): In order to ensure that the farmers of the country are not put to any hardship, the Government has put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring the import of sensitive items.

Import duties on a number of items, namely edible oils (both crude and refined), tea, coffee, copra and coconut, wheat, rice, maize, edible oils, pulses, spices, arecanut and apple have been increased in the last 5 years wherever necessary. Further, the Government is also implementing a number of development programmes to increase the competitiveness of the Indian farmer. These include introduction of improved farming technology, improved availability of inputs including water, credit and fertilizer and price support through the Minimum Support Price (MSP) Scheme and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).