

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4082  
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2005  
IMPORT OF FISH  
Karunakaran Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken decision for free import of fish from Thailand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received representations from State Governments especially from State Government of Kerala regarding the adverse consequences of the decision on the domestic fishing sector; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The Framework Agreement for establishing a Free Trade Area (FTA) between India and Thailand provides for an Early Harvest Scheme (EHS) under which a limited common list of items has been agreed for elimination of tariffs on a fast track basis. The implementation on Early Harvest Scheme has commenced from 1.9.2004. It includes 4 items of fish and fish products at 6-digit HS Code, viz. Salmon (160411); Sardines, sardinella and brisling or sprats (160413); Mackerel (160415) and Crab (160510).

(c) & (d) Kerala Government has requested for excluding fishes from tariff phasing-out regime while negotiating the FTA for ensuring that the economy of the state and the livelihood of fishermen are adequately protected. This will be kept in view while finalizing the sensitive list under the FTA in goods which is presently being negotiated.