

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:273
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2006
IMPORT EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether increase in export of agricultural products is not as per the target fixed by the Government;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;
- (c) the imports of agricultural products during the last three years and thereafter;
- (d) the areas need to be targeted to reduce India`s agri-imports; and
- (e) the amounts of FOREX India has lost on account of agri-imports during the said period?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAI RAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) Since exports are dependent on a host of factors, including external factors, no targets are fixed for agricultural exports. However, our agricultural exports have steadily increased over the last few years.

(c) to (e) The value of imports of agricultural products during the last three years is given below:

Year Value (US \$ Million)

2002-03	2990
2003-04	3694
2004-05#	3777
2005-06#	2191

(April-Oct.)

= provisional

(Source : DGCI&S)

The major agricultural items imported into the country are vegetable oils (edible), pulses, nuts & seeds including raw cashew nuts, etc. While the edible oils and pulses are imported to increase the domestic availability of these commodities, raw cashew nuts are imported for processing and re-export. Increased domestic production of these commodities could reduce the need to import these commodities.