

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1756
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2006
IMPORT OF EDIBLE OILS
Veerendra Kumar Shri M.P.

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

- (a) the quantity of edible oils imported during each of the last three years and thereafter variety-wise and foreign exchange incurred thereon, Country-wise;
- (b) the bound rates of duty and applied rates of duty for each oil imported during the above period;
- (c) whether the bound duty on Soyabean oil has been kept at a low level;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to revive the bound duty on Soya bean oil in order to bring it at par with other edible oils?

Answer

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

(a): The quantity of edible oils imported is given as under

Quantity in Tons

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Apr.-Sep)
Edible oil	4366159.62	5292878.45	4676469.19	2270384.88

The category-wise and country-wise details of quantity and value of edible oils imported is given in the publication ` Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India; Volume -II (Imports) Annual number` published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, which is available in the library of the Parliament.

(b): The bound and applied rates of duty on edible oils is as under:

Item Description	WTO Binding of duty on Crude	Binding of duty on Edible oil	Current rates of duty on Refined Edible oil	Current rates
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Soyabean Oil	45%	45%	45%	
Palmolein	300%	80%	90%	
Palm oil	300%	80%	90%	
Groundnut Oil	300%	85%	85%	
Sunflower/Safflower Oil	300%	75%	85%	
Coconut Oil	300%	85%	85%	
Rapeseed/Mustard Oil	75%	75%	75%	

(c) to (e): The rate of duty on soyabean oil was bound at 45% during negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, 1947. The rates of import duty between different edible oils are calibrated keeping in view the protection of oilseed farmers from import surge and the balance between the interests of producers and consumers.