

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3550
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2006
LIBERALIZED IMPORT OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS
Athithan Shri Dhanuskodi

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study in Tamil Nadu to assess the impact of liberalized import of agriculture products in Indian agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): There has been no specific study conducted by the Government. However, some quick sectoral studies have been conducted to analyze the likely impact of liberalized imports on edible oils. The studies suggest that formulation of policies in respect of calibration of import duties on edible oils, application of new technology to increase production and productivity in oil sector and provision of marketing support to oilseed farmers should be linked to the Indian proposals in the WTO Agriculture negotiations. Recently the Government has brought out a study entitled 'State of the Indian Farmer : A Millennium Study', as a part of which 'Globalization and Agricultural Liberalization in India' has also been studied. Based on various measures of import and export competitiveness, the study concludes that most of the important agricultural commodities in India are competitive and that India can withstand competition from abroad with respect to the import of most of the crops, at the current levels of tariffs.