

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3324
ANSWERED ON:12.05.2006
UNIFORM TARIFF FOR ALL IMPORTS
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has suggested a uniform tariff rate for all imports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has accepted the suggestions of RBI; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S.PALANIMANICKAM)

(a)&(b) Yes Sir. RBI in its Annual Reports 2004-2005 has stated that positive development in the external sector provide environment for further rationalization of tariff with a view towards moving to a single, uniform rate on imports, say 10 per cent.

(c)&(d) The stated policy of the Government is to reduce customs duty on non-agricultural products so as to bring it closer to East Asian rates. In line with this policy, the peak rate of import duty on non-agricultural products is being reduced over the years. Such reductions are independent of suggestions by RBI.