

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2556  
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2006  
IMPORT DUTY ON SODA ASH  
Thakkar Smt. Jayaben B.

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) The present status of import duty on Soda Ash;
- (b) Whether the Government of Gujarat has requested against further reduction of import duty rates to protect soda Ash industry; and
- (c) If so, the stand of the government on the request?

**Answer**

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

- (a) Soda ash attracts 12.5% basic customs duty, 16% countervailing duty (in lieu of excise duty), education cess @ 2% of the aggregate of duties of customs and 4% additional duty of cusoms.
- (b) Before this year`s budget, Government of Gujarat had recommended against any further reduction in import duty on Soda ash to protect the domestic industry.
- (c) In this year`s budget, peak rate of customs duty on non-agricultural items was reduced from 15% to 12.5%. Duty on soda ash has been kept at peak rate of 12.5%.