

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:268

ANSWERED ON:22.03.2005

TRADE AGREEMENTS

Choudhary Smt. Anuradha;Munshiram Shri

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

- (a) whether the Government has constituted a cell for redressal of complaints with regard to trade agreements;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding adverse effect of the free trade agreements on the domestic industries;
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the said cell to redress the complaints of the domestic industries;
- (e) whether the above cell has received any complaints regarding excessive increase in the import of certain commodities in the country;
- (f) if so, details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in view of the impact of excessive imports on the domestic industries;
- (g) whether the domestic industries markets have been reeling under the impact of these agreements during the current year; and
- (h) if so, facts thereof and the number of complaints redressed so far?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Government has constituted a Grievance Cell in the Ministry of Commerce to redress various complaints regarding trade agreements. This Grievance Cell is at present headed by an Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. As soon as complaints are received, consultations with all concerned are initiated with a view to resolving the problems.

(e) to (h): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (e) to (h) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 268 FOR ANSWER ON 22ND MARCH, 2005 REGARDING TRADE AGREEMENTS.

(e) & (f): Yes, Sir. The Grievance Cell has received complaints on surge of imports of copper from Sri Lanka under India -Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement. The Govt. had consultations with the Govt. of Sri Lanka regarding this and the Government of Sri Lanka has put in place a floor price mechanism for import of copper into Sri Lanka. It is expected that this would resolve the complaint. The situation is being monitored by the two Governments.

(g) & (h): No, Sir. The agreements with the ASEAN, Singapore, SAFTA, Mercosur are yet to be made operational. The FTAs which are in operation are: India-Sri Lanka FTA operating since March, 2000 (India's export to and import from Sri Lanka was \$ 1319 million and \$ 195 million respectively in the year 2003-04) and the Early Harvest Programme (EPH) under India-Thailand Framework Agreement which came into effect from September, 2004.