

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:507

ANSWERED ON:09.07.2004

REDUCING AGRICULTURAL IMPORT .

Gadakh Shri Tukaram Gangadhar; Kanodia Shri Mahesh Kumar; Solanki Shri Bhupendrasinh Prabhatsinh

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

(a) whether the Government is considering reduction in agricultural imports to strengthen the indigenous primary sector; and

(b) if so, has the Government, so far, taken any action in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ( SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

(a) & (b) Development of indigenous agriculture is one of the most important objectives of the Government. All imports in the country are subject to applicable rates of Customs duties and also subject to domestic laws, rules, orders, regulations, technical specifications, environmental and safety norms as applicable to domestically produced goods. This should provide adequate protection to the indigenous primary sector. Government is absolutely determined to ensure through appropriate use of the tariff mechanism that imports do not cause any detriment or injury to the indigenous sector. Towards this end import duties on a number of products including wheat, rice, maize, edible oils, pulses, cotton, cloves, pepper, tea, coffee, arecanut, apple etc. have been increased in the last five years.