

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:398
ANSWERED ON:11.07.2014
IMPORT OF ARECANUT
Karandlaje Km. Shobha

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

- (a) the quantum and value of arecanut imported into the country during each of the last three years and the current year, country-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has taken note that the indiscriminate import of cheap and inferior quality arecanut has caused fall in price of domestic arecanut and thus adversely affecting the livelihood of small and marginal farmers of Karnataka and Kerala;
- (c) if so, the facts thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to enhance import duty of arecanut to 100 per cent and fix higher floor price for imported arecanut; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the other safeguard measures taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to check import of arecanut and address the grievances of arecanut growers in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

- (a) The quantum and value of arecanut imported into the country during each of the last three years and the current year, country-wise is at Annex-I.
- (b)&(c) The Monthly average prices of arecanut in the last five years are at Annex-II. The mean average price has continuously shown an upward trend over this period.
- (d) &(e) The present import duty of arecanut on MFN basis is 100% and the Central Board of Excise and Customs have also imposed a Tariff value of \$1908 per metric ton on the import of arecanut. Government has also fixed minimum import price of arecanuts at Rs 110/- per Kg. To check import of arecanut and address the grievances of arecanut growers in the country, Government has laid down that imports of arecanut would be permitted as an input under Advance Authorization only when it is by an actual user; or by anybody (including the actual user) if it is specifically mentioned in the Standard Input-Output Norms (SION) of the export product.