

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3197  
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2000  
IMPORT TREND IN EDIBLE OIL SECTOR  
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**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether trends in India's imports during 1998-99 showed significant increase under bulk category;
- (b) if so, whether these commodities of import include rice and edible oil and the percentage of increase on both the items;
- (c) whether the Government propose to show restraint on import of edible oils since the local industry is capable of meeting the country's consumption demands to major extent;
- (d) whether such indiscriminate import of edible oil is proving harmful to domestic edible oil industry which is unable to secure a remunerative price for its produce in the local market;
- (e) whether the Government will consider total ban on import of rice and edible oil to protect the Indian farmer keeping in view of good monsoon and anticipated bumper crops including oilseeds; and
- (f) if so, the details in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total quantity and value of rice and edible oils imported during the last three years and the percentage increase over the previous year are as under:

Qty: MTs; Value: Rs. Crore

Year	Rice		Edible Oil			
	Qty.	Value	%ge. Increase over the prev. year	Qty.	Value	%ge. Increase over the prev. year
1997-98	54	0.06	-	1265753	2764.67	-
1998-99	6654	5.41	12222	8916	2621851	7588.93
1999-2000 (P)	27602	24.59	315	355	4196000	7983.87

(P) - Provisional  
(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(c) & (d) Import duty on crude oils has been increased from 15% (basic) to 25% (basic), on refined oils from 25% (basic) to 35% (basic) and on other oils to 45% (basic) with effect from 12.6.2000. Further, the use of indigenous oils to a minimum of 25% of the oil-mix in the manufacture of vanaspati has also been made mandatory with effect from 12.6.2000. The objectives have been to encourage the farmers through better return for their produce and support the domestic processing industry in terms of better capacity utilisation and higher value addition.

(e) & (f) Review of Exim Policy is an on-going process and accordingly policy interventions are made, as and when considered necessary to protect the interests of the domestic consumers, farmers and domestic industry.