

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3195  
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2000  
LICENSING NORMS FOR CONSUMER GOODS  
DAGGUBATI RAMANAIDU

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

- (a) whether the Union Government have relaxed the licensing norms for a number of consumer items in a bid to free the consumer goods sector from State control; (
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and (
- (c) the extent to which the relaxation of import restrictions have been helpful to the Government?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ( SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH )

(a) to (c) : India has been following a consistent policy for gradual removal of restrictions on imports since 1991. Tariff line- wise import policy was first announced on 31.3.1996. As on that date, import of 6161 tariff lines (at 10 digit level) out of the total number of 10202 was free. Import restrictions on 488 tariff lines were removed during the period 1.4.96 to 31.3.97. Further 391 tariff lines (at 8 digit level) were freed during the period 1.4.97 to 13.4.98 and 894 tariff lines (at 8 digit level) were freed on 1.4.99. Import restrictions on 714 tariff lines were removed on 31.3.2000. The items on which import restrictions have been removed include consumer goods also. Import restrictions have been removed in line with the economic liberalization policy being followed since 1991 and also in accordance with country's commitment to multilateral trading regime.