

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:469

ANSWERED ON:19.04.2001

FOOD INDUSTRY

GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

:

- (a) whether the experts have expressed serious apprehensions about the Indian food industry's capacity to meet the new challenges emerging out of the World Trade Organisation agreement;
- (b) whether the Centre for Processed Foods has pointed out that agriculture is not getting its remunerative price in India and the products are also not assured of the minimum support price;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the other views expressed by these experts; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to meet food industry fully equipped to face WTO challenge?

Answer

AGRICULTURE MINISTER (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 469 for answer on 19.04.2001 regarding Food Industry.

(a) There have been some articles written by certain experts in this regard in the newspapers expressing certain apprehensions about the effect of WTO Agreement. This is not based on any substantive evaluation. However, Government of India is fully geared to the opportunities and challenges emerging out of the WTO Agreement.

(b) & (c): It has been ascertained from the Centre for Processed Foods that they have not made any study regarding agriculture not getting either remunerative prices or not being assured of minimum support price.

(d):

(i) The Government of India have taken and is taking necessary steps to provide a level playing field for Indian Industry.

(ii) It has been decided to impose import duty on maximum retail price (MRP) basis.

(iii) A Notification has been issued to make all imported items strictly comply with the Indian laws including labeling requirements.

(iv) Agreement on agriculture has been taken up for further negotiation to ensure beneficial treatment for the country.

(v) A High level monitoring committee has been formed to monitor any surge in particular items imported into the country.

(vi) Imposition of countervailing duty on alcoholic beverages.

(vii) Provision for imposing anti-dumping duties if a product is dumped.