GOVERNMENT OF INDIA COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2035 ANSWERED ON:03.08.2001 ANTI-DUMPING ON AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether the Government are contemplating to bring the agriculture products under the ambit of anti-dumping;
- (b) whether a special cell is proposed to be set up in the Anti-Dumping Directorate for the purpose;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps being taken in this regard; and
- (e) the details of other steps taken or proposed to be taken to ward of the likely adverse effects of import of agriculture products?

Answer

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

- (a) to (d): Anti-dumping measures are initiated and decided in accordance with our national law as enshrined in Section 9A, 9B & 9C of Customs Tariff Act, 1975 as amended in 1995. Anti-Dumping cases are initiated by the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties (DGAD) when the domestic industry files a fully documented petition to the Designated Authority with prima-facie evidence of dumping, injury and causal link between the dumping of the imported goods and injury. Agriculture products are very much within the ambit of Anti-Dumping measures and that there is no need or proposal to set up any special cell. Like in the case of any raw material, intermediate or consumer goods, Anti-Dumping action can be initiated on agriculture imports on the basis of a fully documented petition with sufficient evidence of dumping, injury and causal link. The domestic industry has not filed any petition in the prescribed proforma to the DGAD to enable the Designated Authority to initiate investigations for imposing Anti-Dumping Duty on import of Agriculture products.
- (e): Some of the measures taken by the Government to combat the threat of dumping are as follows:
- (i) Import duties on a number of items have been increased in recent past including in the Budget of 2001-02.
- (ii) Safeguard action is being taken to curb any surge in imports.
- (iii) A Standing Group has been constituted for tracking, collating and analysing data on sensitive items, which are of importance to the public. The Government is monitoring import of 300 sensitive items.
- (iv) Import of all packaged commodities will be subjected to compliance of the conditions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodity) Order, 1977, as applicable to domestic producers.
- (v) Import of 131 products has been made subject to compliance of the mandatory Indian quality standards as applicable to domestic goods. For compliance of this requirement, all manufacturers / exporters of these products to India shall be required to register themselves with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
- (vi) The Government has taken various steps to speed up the Anti-Dumping investigation, streamline the procedures and provide quick relief to the domestic industry which inter-alia include immediate initiation of investigations on submission of fully documented petition, recommending Preliminary Findings early to provide immediate relief to the domestic industry and holding of Seminars/ Workshops/ Interactive sessions all over the country to make people aware of the Anti-Dumping rules and procedures.