

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1631
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2001
IMPORT DUTY ON CASH CROPS
ABUL HASNAT KHAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government propose to raise the import duties on rubber, coconut and other cash crops to the maximum level in view of the lifting of quantitative restrictions on imports;
- (b) whether the Union Government also propose to negotiate with the WTO for declaration of coir as agricultural product instead of industrial product;
- (c) if so, the time by which coir is likely to be declared as agricultural product; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

- (a): There is no proposal at present to raise the import duty on these items.
- (b)&(c): In its initial negotiating proposals submitted to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for the mandated negotiations under the Agreement on Agriculture, India has stressed the need for the rationalization of the product coverage of the Agreement by including primary agricultural commodities like coir. The said mandated negotiations are under way.
- (d): Question does not arise.