

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:55
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2002
IMPACT OF LIBERALISED IMPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have conducted any study on the impact of liberalised import of Agricultural products on Indian Agriculture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of Indian farmers and increase their competitiveness in facing the challenges of agricultural imports effectively?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.5 DUE FOR REPLY ON 4TH MARCH, 2002.

(a) & (b): There has been no comprehensive study on the impact of liberalized import of agricultural products on Indian Agriculture. However, some quick sectoral studies have been conducted to analyse the likely impact of liberalized imports on edible oils. The studies suggest linking the findings with calibration of import duties, application of new technology to increase production and provision of marketing support to farmers to avail better prices for their products and in formulating policies and proposals in the WTO agricultural negotiations.

(c): In order to ensure that the farmers of the country are not put to any hardship, the Government has put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring the import of sensitive items and is committed to providing adequate protection to the domestic producers by resorting to various WTO compatible measures which include appropriate calibration of applied tariffs within the bound levels, imposition of anti-dumping, countervailing duties and safeguard action under certain specified circumstances.

As a sequel to these measures, during the year 2001-02, the import duty on edible oils (both crude and refined), tea, coffee, copra and coconut and certain other agricultural commodities has been increased. Presently, milk powder and poultry meat and chicken legs attract an enhanced import duty @ 60% and 100%, respectively.