

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:313
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2000
IMPORT OF POLY URETHENE
P.C. THOMAS

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

- (a) whether Poly-urethane and items connected thereto are being imported;
- (b) if so, the details of import which took place during the last three years, year-wise, item-wise, country-wise and the value thereof;
- (c) whether use of natural rubber has been affected due to substitution by Poly Urethane;
- (d) whether rubber growers have raised objection to the import of Poly Urethane and the reduction of import duty thereof;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to save rubber growers in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) & (b) Import of Polyurethanes, classifiable under Exim Code Nos. 390950 00 or 391690 05 of ITC(HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, is Free. Details of imports made during the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 (from April to February, '99) year-wise, and item-wise, country-wise are given in the Statement annexed.

(c) to (e) Representations have been received by the Government for banning/ restricting the import of Polyurethanes. Since the quantity of imported Polyurethane consumed by the foam industry is not substantial enough to pose a threat to natural rubber/latex, the import of Polyurethane has not been restricted. Moreover in view of Government's policy of removal of restrictions on imports, the restrictions on import of any item already allowed to be imported freely may not normally be re-imposed.

(f) To enable the rubber growers to get a remunerative price for their produce, the Government has authorised procurement of 30,000 M.T. of Natural Rubber on Government account. Import of natural rubber under duty exemption scheme has been restricted since February, '99.

Statement referred to in reply to part (b) Lok Sabha Unstarred of Q.No.313 to be answered on 25.2.2000

Import of Polyurethane (Exim Code 390950 00) during 1996- 97, 1997-98, 1998-99 (upto Feb.'99)

Qty. in Tons Value in Rs. lakhs

Countries 1996-97 1997-98 1998-99
April-Feb. '99

	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Australia	50.10	13	33.01	21	36	96.63
Germany F.REP.	661.20	542	798.15	829.34	364	419
Italy	328.24	199	296.23	267.86	212	198
Japan	122.80	109.69	10	42.93	48	32
Korea RP	7.70	55	46.13	06	28	10.08
Spain	74.08	36	60.64	47	58	99.89
Singapore	109.74	34.30		73	20	22
U K	173.67	148.35	199.84	126	83	96
USA	429.51	205	330.66	389.19	167	150
Others	174.15	133	178.42	167.85	101	97

Total	1157	2059.22	1304	2040.79	1140	2204.52
-------	------	---------	------	---------	------	---------

Import of Polyurethane (Exim Code 391690 05)during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 (upto Feb.'99)

Qty. in Tons

Value in Rs. lakhs

Countries	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
	April-Feb. '99		

Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
------	-------	------	-------	------	-------

Germany F.REP.	3	5.7	-	-	-
UK	1	3.8	-	-	-
Japan	11	39.55	-	-	-
Chinese Taipei	0.75	-	-	0.48	1.20 0.159
Singapore		0.271	0.58	-	-
Others	-	-	-		

Total	15.15	49.89	0.271	0.58	0.48 1.20
-------	-------	-------	-------	------	-----------

SOURCE : DGCIS