

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6050
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2003
PROTECTION TO FARMERS
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

he effective steps being taken by the Government to protect the Indian farmers from the adverse impact of WTO agreement on agriculture?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

Under the existing provisions of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture India's domestic policy for the agriculture sector has by and large not been constrained by the commitments. India has undertaken to bind its primary agricultural products at 100%; processed foods at 150% and at 300% for some edible oils. Following the removal of quantitative restrictions on imports, India has negotiated upwards the tariff bindings in respect of some agricultural products like skimmed milk powder, maize, rice, spelt wheat, and millets, which were bound at zero or at low bound rates during earlier negotiations.

India has not been required to reduce domestic subsidies to the agriculture sector since the total Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS) is negative and remains well within the de minimis.

In order to protect the interest of the farmers market interventions are made to procure agricultural commodities covered under MSP scheme and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), if their prices fell below MSP or the price fixed under MIS. The Government is implementing scheme for various crops in which farmers, including small and marginal farmers are given assistance of various types. The Government has been monitoring import of sensitive agricultural commodities and takes action to regulate the import and also to increase import duties as and when considered necessary.