

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:136  
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2006  
PROTECTION OF INTERESTS OF SPICE GROWERS  
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a huge quantity of Arecanut and Spices are smuggled to India from neighbouring countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it has adversely affected the interests of the domestic producers; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of growers of such products in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 136 DUE FOR REPLY ON 27TH FEBRUARY, 2006.

(a): No, Sir. No authentic information on huge quantities of arecanut and spices smuggled into India from neighbouring countries is available with the Government.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): Does not arise.

(d): The import duty on arecanut has been increased from 35% to 100% with effect from 2001-02 to protect the interest of domestic farmers. The Ministry of Finance has also issued instructions to custom officials to prevent illegal entry of arecanut in the Country. Development programmes on spices are being undertaken under recently launched National Horticulture Mission. The programmes includes production of nucleus planting materials of high yielding and export oriented varieties of spices specific to different agro climatic conditions, their multiplication and distribution, area expansion, integrated pest management, organic farming etc.

Besides, the duty free import of pepper for re-export purposes through advance licence is discontinued except for light pepper required by oleoresin industry for re-export purposes.