

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1567
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2004
IMPORT DUTY ON COTTON
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the import duty on cotton is less as compared to other crops;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefore;
- (c) the reasons for failure of the cotton growers to fetch adequate price for their product during the last three years; and
- (d) the action taken to increase the import duty on cotton in order to benefit the cotton growers of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

- (a)&(b): Different agricultural commodities attract varying rates of import duty. While fixing the import duty, Government takes into account the interests of producers, and consumers of a particular agricultural commodity.
- (c): The Government of India announces a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for cotton to ensure a remunerative price to the farmers. The MSP, so announced by the Government, has been increasing every year during the last 3 years.
- (d): There is no proposal, at present, to increase the import duty on raw cotton.