

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2910
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2007
IMPORT OF CAUSTIC SODA
Mahato Shri Narahari

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

- (a) the total quantity of caustic soda flakes/solids/lye being imported alongwith the foreign exchange incurred thereon during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07;
- (b) whether the Government has reduced the excise duty on Caustic Soda;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the cost of production;
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal to reduce customs duty on import of membrane cell plants, fuel oil used for power generation and the machinery for captive power generation; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a): The details of imports of caustic soda flakes/solids/lye are as under :

Year	Quantity (in Tonnes)	Value (Rs. Lakhs)
2005-06	58320.0	8934.4
2006-07 (Apr.-Oct.)	86478.6	12878.0

(b): No, Sir.

(c): Does not arise

(d): Caustic soda industry is deregulated and de-licensed and therefore the prices of the materials affecting the cost of production are market driven.

(e): No, Sir.

(f): Does not arise.