

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1124
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2007
IMPORT OF SPICES
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) the details of various types of spices being imported;
- (b) the amount being spent on the import of spices;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any measures to make the country self-sufficient in spices in view of the large amount being spent on their imports; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to curb the import of spices?

Answer

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

- (a)&(b) A statement showing details of spices imported in the last three years i.e. 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 is annexed.
- (c) To improve production and productivity of spices in the country various promotional programs are being implemented by Spices Board of India including supply of quality planting materials, developing water resources such as farm ponds, check dams, weir's and open wells in cardamom plantations, popularizing rain water harvesting divides in cardamom and vanilla plantations, development of exotic and high value spices, assist NGO's farmers cooperative in developing organic spice production and their certification and promote integrated pest management practices and post harvest improvement techniques. Special emphasis is also being proposed for development of spices in North East.
- (d) The import of spices is largely taking place for value addition and re-export expecting items such as poppy seed, clove, cassia, star anise etc., the production which do not match the domestic need. Import of large cardamom and ginger fresh is mainly from neighbouring country viz., Nepal, under the Treaty of Trade between India and Nepal. Import of spices like pepper, clove, and cinnamon are also permitted under Free Trade Agreement between India and Sri Lanka.