

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4993
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2010
IMPACT OF FTAs ON SPICE INDUSTRY
Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia

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

- (a) whether the Spice Board have made any assessment about the impact of the recent Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) on the domestic spice producers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government took into account Board`s opinion before concluding the FTAs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the issues raised by the Spice Board were accommodated in the FTAs?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) to (d): Yes, Madam. While negotiating Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) Government takes a number of steps to protect the interest of domestic as well as export oriented industry and farmers. These include keeping the items to which the domestic industry and farmers are sensitive, in the Negative List. On such items limited or no tariff concessions are granted to the trading partner. Such lists are prepared after consulting all stake holders which include the Boards as well as the Apex Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Industry Associations, etc. In so far as India-ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement is concerned inputs were obtained from the Spices Board and considered while finalizing the Agreement. Most of the spices have been kept in India's exclusion List(Negative List).