

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3019
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2010
IMPACT OF FTAS ON SPICE PRODUCERS
Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

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

- (a) whether the Spice Board has analyzed 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 agreeing on the FTAs;
- (d) the issues raised by the Spice Board were accommodated in the FTAs; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): 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 concession are granted to the trading partner. Such list are prepared after consulting all stake holders which include the Boards as well as the Apex Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Industry Association, 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 are kept in India's exclusion List (Negative List).