

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5997  
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2012  
DRY CELLS  
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

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

- (a) whether there is an increase in import of dry cells and decline in production of dry cells in non-SSI sector during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the domestic production of dry cells and reduce the import of dry cell batteries?

**Answer**

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

- (a) The import of dry cells has substantially decreased while the production has shown marginal decline.
- (b) The decline can be attributed to rising input costs and reduced demand due to increase in prices and change in consumer preferences to more energy efficient products.
- (c) For enhancement of domestic production of dry cells, the industry is de-licensed and eligible for foreign direct investment up to 100% on the automatic route.