

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1246  
ANSWERED ON:13.07.2009  
IMPACT OF AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS  
Sugavanam Shri E.G.;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government has imported huge quantities of agricultural product in the current year as compared to previous year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to reduce import of agricultural products and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the long term impact of agricultural imports on our domestic agricultural and horticultural sector; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e) There has been no import by the Government of wheat or rice during the year 2008-09; and no decision has been taken for import of wheat or rice during the current year. Agricultural products are classified under Chapters 1-24 of ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import items. The import data, chapter-wise for the period April 2007 to January 2008 and for April 2008 to January 2009 are attached at Annexure 1.

The Government has not conducted any formal study to assess the long term impact of agricultural imports on our domestic agriculture and horticulture sector during the last 5 years.

However, the Government is monitoring import of certain sensitive items (including both Agricultural and non-Agricultural) on a monthly basis. As per the provisional import data available with the Government for the year 2008-09, import of these sensitive items increased by 27.7% compared to last year.

Any domestic concern arising out of imports are addressed by appropriate action under the provisions of the Agreement of Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, 1994, the Agreement on Safeguards and the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures of the WTO.