

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:804

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009

DUTY FREE IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS

Alagiri Shri S. ;Laguri Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the foodgrains being imported into the country by multinational companies under the duty free system has adversely affected the Indian farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the food items which come under the purview of the said system;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to reconsider the said system in view of the problems being faced by the farmers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): No, Madam. The price policy of the Government for foodgrains seeks to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce by declaring the minimum support price (MSP) at which the farmer can sell the produce to designated agencies with a view to encourage higher investment and production.

(b): Full exemption from basic customs duty has been provided to some foodgrains to augment their domestic availability and keep their prices under check.

The customs duty structure on foodgrains is as follows:

S.No.	Commodity	Customs duty
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1	Wheat	Nil
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2	Meslin	Nil
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3	Rice (semi or wholly milled)	Nil
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4	Maize (Other than seed)	Nil
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5	Barley	Nil
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6	Rye	Nil
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7	Oats	Nil
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8	Jawar	50%
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9 Bajra 50%

10 Grain sorghum 50%

11 Ragi 50%

12 Rice (in husk 80%  
or husked)

(c)&(d): The Government reviews the situation from time to time make adjustments necessary to ensure remunerative prices to farmers.